

Prevent Violence in Your School Community

Interpersonal violence affects the lives of millions of children across the world. Schools are in a unique position to address and prevent violence against children. This course provides guidance for teachers, school officials and education authorities on how schools can embed violence prevention within their routine activities and across the points of interaction schools.

The course aims to contribute much to helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and other global health and development goals. In turn, preventing violence in the broader society can directly benefit the core aim of schools to educate children, foster high-quality lifelong learning, and empower learners to be responsible global citizens. As violence in schools affects a large proportion of students, the course is focused on preventing it from happening in the first place.

The course deals with prevention of school-based violence by creating safe learning environments that promote learning and are based on equality and respect. Aspects such as working directly with children to look at some of the root causes of violent behavior is discussed during the course.

Participants is beneficiated in the long term by including skills to recognize violence, to stay safe, to resolve conflicts in non-violent ways, to manage emotions, to access help and support and to support someone else who may be experiencing violence in the curriculum.

The following three key strategies that can be applied in schools, are discussed in the course:

- Develop life skills
- Teach children about safe behaviour
- Challenge social and cultural norms and promote equal relationships

Moreover, the course offers guidance on how to engage families and caregivers in prevention and protection efforts. Finally, different patterns of collaborative approaches between the schools and parents and representatives of local communities, including local authorities, are analysed.

It leads to a Level 7 EQC Certificate, accompanied by a Europass Certificate Supplement with 10 transferable ECVET points.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you will be able to:

develop leadership, school policies, and coordination methods

create awareness in the school community and a culture that does not accept violence

develop a school policy that condemns violence and is enforced fairly for everyone

develop an action plan

make violence prevention an essential part of the day-to-day work of the school administration

understand the role of parents in the prevention of violence

prevent violence through curriculum-based activities

build partnerships with parents, children and local communities

Methodology

The main aspect of the course is to promote collaboration between participants. Lessons will be held in our centre's classrooms and computer lab, as well as outside. Our approach is to base the learning process on practical rather than theoretical knowledge. The course is based on active learning methods and, at the end of the course, participants should be able to use the taught techniques effectively.

Preparation

Every participant will have to fill a questionnaire which helps the trainers to customize the course to better fit their needs.

Attendants will get instructions and material which will help them to be prepared for the courses needs.

Content

Course Contents Overview:

This course is focused on:

Give teachers the skills to respond appropriately to violence

What are the different forms of child maltreatment

Add to understanding of violence through identifying and using data from existing school surveys and routinely collected data

Review and adapt school buildings and grounds – Work with students and staff through the coordinating team to identify hotspots for violence (including the way to and from school) and find solutions in these areas

Course participants will be given several practical exercises based on the theoretical background provided and their own teaching experiences.

Structured study visits

During the course, we also organize study visits to local schools. Normally, we discuss with participants their needs and we organize study visits to cover these needs. Depending on the group, we organize from a minimum of one to a maximum of five study visits. Popular study visits include:

A special needs education school

A school for adults from disadvantaged backgrounds

A school with Roma mainstreaming classes

Vocational secondary and post-secondary schools

General primary and secondary schools

Each study visit is structured and accompanied by reflective activities. There is no extra cost for these study visits.

Outdoors learning

There are two outdoor learning activities: a gamified tour of the town and a visit to a local historical site. The onsite visit is accompanied by non-formal European history learning activities, as well as activities that link this history to the course topic. There is no extra cost for these activities.

Social programme

There is also an optional social programme for those interested. This programme may include an intercultural night, lunches and dinners at different restaurants, going out for a drink or coffee, or even an extra excursion – if there is time! These activities depend on participant needs and wants, and those participating in them will have to pay for what they choose to eat and drink. If there is an optional excursion, they will also have to pay van costs and any other expenses (e.g. museum tickets)

Follow up

The participants will get material which includes information about all the areas covered at the course, lesson plans, all the produced outcomes of the course, useful links and more.

The above material can be freely used by the participants at their school.