Questionnaire for students

Here is a picture of a person being bullied with a number of people watching. The person being threatened may be called the victim. The person threatening is the bully.

How often does this sort of thing happen at your school? Circle your answer:

Every day  Most days  Once or twice  Less than Never
a week  a week  a week  or hardly ever

Now please think carefully about what you think you would do if you were watching what was happening.

Tick ONLY one

• I would ignore it
• I would support the person being pushed down
• I would support the person who is pushing the other person down
• I would get a teacher

Write a sentence saying why you ticked the one you did.

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Instructions on the use of the bystander questionnaire

Have everyone complete the questionnaire - without their names

1. Take in the questionnaires and prepare for the next lesson in which you can share with them what students have written.

2. Read out to students some of the things that they have written about why they would respond as they had indicated.

3. Begin by selecting the positive things. Commonly students will spontaneously ‘own’ what they have written. But do not pressure anyone to do so.

4. Acknowledge the misgivings some children may have about helping by picking out written comments that indicate a reluctance to do so and discuss the reasons that have been given.

5. Discuss with the class ways in which bystanders can discourage bullying without taking unacceptable risks

6. With the support of the class, undertake a project in which students as bystanders try out ways of discouraging bullying.

7. Role play suggested situations and possible responses by bystanders

8. Get the class to report back periodically on the actions they have taken and the outcomes. Discuss what happened and brainstorm better options.