

# RELATIONSHIPS

Half Term 6

Week 6

W/C

## GANGS

- Know what a gang is
- Understand some of the reasons why people join a gang
- Know some of the impacts and laws associated with being in a gang
- Know what help is available



# DISCUSS AS A GROUP

What are the differences between group and gang membership? Create two lists. Consider what people wear, behaviour, language used etc.



# WHAT IS A GANG?



- A gang is usually considered to be a group of people who spend time in public places that
- see themselves (and are seen by others) as a noticeable group, and
- engage in a range of criminal activity and violence.

They may also have any or all of the following features

- identify with or lay a claim over territory
- are in conflict with other, similar gangs

# JOINING A GANG

Sense of belonging and/or identity	Protection
Pressure to join	To get respect
Expectation to join as family or friends are members	Not sure people are trustworthy
Potential legal consequences	Enjoy risk-taking
Concerns over safety within a gang	Looking for a glamorous lifestyle

Which 2 reasons do you think are the most common reasons given for wanting to join a gang?

Why do you think some people may find it difficult to resist joining a gang?

- Gang activities often put people in highly risky situations so the idea of protection is undermined.
- Whilst gangs can provide people with an identity, it may strip individuals of their personal identity as each gang member is expected to conform to the group's actions and beliefs.



- Gang members are often shown in the media to have a glamorous lifestyle.
- However, this is at the expense of their safety and they are making money from fear and criminality in their community which affects the quality of their relationships and future career prospects.

# FACT OR MYTH?

## MYTH-

Possession of a knife has a 5 year prison sentence, even if it is not used

not to carry one

You can be arrested, charged and sent to prison if someone you are with has a knife on another person

FACT

person

## MYTH-

You are more at risk of being involved in a knife crime

The police can stop and search anyone at any time if they think they are carrying a weapon

FACT

# FACT OR MYTH?

**MYTH-**

It is illegal for a shop to sell a knife to anyone under 18 years old

A person **FACT** from a stab wound or leg

**MYTH-**

You are 61% more at risk of being involved in violent or fatal crimes

**MYTH-**

In the UK the age of criminal responsibility is 10

# Discuss- What impact could gangs have?



**INDIVIDUALS**



**FAMILIES AND  
GROUPS**



**COMMUNITIES AND  
HOUSING AREAS**

# ADVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- If you're feeling pressured to join a gang or carry out tasks for gang members, it's important you stay strong. Joining a gang could ruin your future – and you could even end up losing your life.
- Don't be tempted to accept gifts, money, or items such as food and alcohol from people who you know to be gang members or gang associates. They could be grooming you to join in with their activities.
- If you're asked to carry out a job for someone who you think is in a gang, say no. It might seem harmless and like easy money, but things could soon spiral out of control.

Local and national services such as:

- **A Better Medway:** <http://www.abettermedway.co.uk/>
- **Childline:** [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)  
Contact number: 0800 1111
- **Crimestoppers:** <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>  
Contact number: 0800 555111
- **Victim support:** [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)  
Contact number: 0808 16 89 111
- **Runaway helpline:** <http://www.runawayhelpline.org.uk/advice/gangs/>  
Call or Text 116 000 or email [116000@runawayhelpline.org.uk](mailto:116000@runawayhelpline.org.uk).