

Violence reduction in schools workshop



Session 8:
Agreeing and applying policy
- Creating a school climate
of non-violence through
whole-school policy



“There are only two forces in the world, the sword and the spirit.
In the long run the sword will always be conquered by the spirit.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

Learning outcomes



In Session 8 we will develop the knowledge understanding and skills needed to:

- understand the dimensions of a policy on violence reduction;
- be able to analyse the degree of involvement of stakeholders in policy creation

Sequence of Activities



The 5 activities in session 8:

- Activity 8.1 – Writing or reviewing a school policy
- Activity 8.2 – Monitoring should be easy and simple to carry out
- Activity 8.3 – How effective are we at promoting convivencia?
- Activity 8.4 – Rating your current situation
- Activity 8.5 – The value of teaching citizenship

Introduction



What is involved:

- The whole-school policy development process;
- Schools as learning organisations:
 - ethos
 - Self review
 - planning
 - performance indicators

Developing a policy



Stages:

- Engage stakeholder groups:
 - staff
 - pupils
 - the wider community – parents and others
- Develop a presentation to explain:
 - elements of the policy
 - how stakeholders will be involved in developing, implementing and monitoring policy

Analysing levels of involvement



Robson & Smedley's 5 levels of involvement:

- Level 1 information
 - documents and meetings
- Level 2 involvement
 - active involvement in practical help
- Level 3 collaboration
 - working together to develop policy and actions
- Level 4 partnership
 - joint management and decision making

Other aids to policy making



Chapter 3 of the Handbook also mentions:

- Monitoring tools
- Evaluation questions
- Rating tools
- Analysing involvement – e.g. At levels 1-4
 - L1 school assembly pattern
 - L2 display
 - L3 school council
 - L4 restorative approaches
- Citizenship for convivencia

Session 8: Follow-up activity

Designing or reviewing a policy for violence reduction in your school:

- You are invited to use the answers to the list of questions in activity 8.1 to design or review a school policy for violence reduction.
- Remember that a policy is of no use unless it is put into practice.
- Involve groups of students, staff and parents and decide with them what should be in the policy by agreeing the answers to the questions in Activity 8.1.
- Decide how the policy will be communicated and how it will be used and monitored.