

ALISON COPE SESSIONS CANNOCK CSP

Evaluation Report December 2023



**KINGSMEAD
SCHOOL**



Cardinal Griffin
Catholic College



**THE HART
SCHOOL**
Creative
Education
Trust



PSHE Education
STOKE-ON-TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE

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Staffordshire

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INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

“WE USE JOSHUA’S UNIQUE LIFE AND DEATH STORY TO EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE DANGERS OF KNIFE CRIME AND HELP THEM TO MAKE POSITIVE CHOICES TO STAY SAFE”

The Joshua Ribera Foundation CIC.

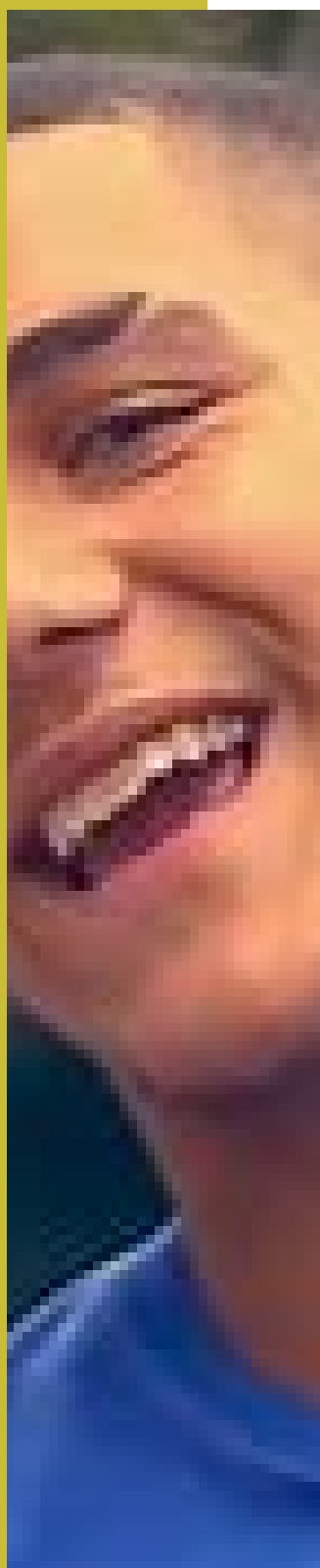
The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is the statutory body responsible for implementing a strategy to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse in the their local borough/district. Its aim is to work in partnership to increase public confidence and improve community safety.

Cannock Chase Community Safety Partnership wanted to utilise PSHE education to help educate young people about knife crime and its potential consequences as part of their strategic plans.

Following feedback from Alison Cope's sessions delivered in the district last academic year, the partnership agreed to funded a further session this academic year and six Secondary Schools in the district took up this offer (75%).

The Community Safety Partnership engaged with the PSHE Education Service to ensure best practice guidance was implemented and to maximise the potential learning outcomes for the young people attending the sessions. This included offering education settings a follow-up education session to embed the learning and support the emotional impact of Alison's session.

The purpose of this report is to highlight feedback from students and professionals about both sessions to the school and CSP to demonstrate impact and inform next steps.



03

ALISON COPE

Alison Cope lost her son to knife crime in 2013 and now delivers education presentations across the country to share her son's story about his life and his death and the impact this has had on her and others. The intention is to try and stop other families sharing in her experience with their own loved ones.

In the session Alison shares photographs from social media, highlighting how the online world can impact on other people's perceptions of criminal activity, gang association and the shares the powers the Police have when investigating someone. Alison highlights the importance of choice and consequences.

Alison asks the participants "Who do you think I am?", revealing herself to be the mother of a victim of knife Crime. She then uses photographs and videos to bring Joshua's story to life. Telling how one altercation ended the hope, dreams and lives of two young men, one - her son Joshua Ribera. The other, the male in prison for taking Joshua's life following a stabbing - a single wound to the heart. Alison shares that Joshua had turned his life around and was better known as Depzman (although to Alison he will always be Joshua), a up and coming Grime Artist, who had a number one album and was on the brink of stardom.

The attack took place at a memorial party in Birmingham, for another young male who had died through knife crime. The court reports that Armani Mitchell (the person convicted of Joshua's murder) deliberately carried a three-inch hunting knife to the party but recognised that this was not a premeditated attack, but a response to altercations between the two young men that had devastating effects on both.



04

PSHE EDUCATION

The Pan-Staffordshire PSHE Education Service, is funded by Staffordshire Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime Commissioner's Office to support the development and delivery of age-appropriate, quality PSHE education. PSHE education, when done effectively, enables children and young people to develop the knowledge and skills they need to thrive now and in the future. Within Staffordshire the service is delivered by Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS).

The service has developed a local quality assured framework and best practice principles to ensure they can support commissioners with funding external providers to enhance PSHE provision within schools.

The service was able to provide advice and guidance to the three Community Safety Partnerships on how best to utilise Alison's sessions to ensure that learning was optimised for the young people attending the session and also promoted the opportunity to eligible settings. This included promoting the use of a follow-on education session that is designed to be delivered by in-house trained PSHE educators. The intended learning outcomes for the session were:

- By the end of the session participants will be able to explain the impact of knife crime for individuals (victims and offenders) and the wider community.
- By the end of the session participants will be able to challenge decisions to carry a bladed weapon.
- By the end of the session participants will be able to utilise negotiation skills to de-escalate situations.
- By the end of the session participants will be able to list where to go for further help and support.

This session was written with consideration for the local best practice principles highlighted below.

EFFECTIVE PSHE

-  Is delivered within a safe learning environment based on the principles that prejudice, discrimination and bullying are harmful and unacceptable.
-  Has clear learning objectives and outcomes and ensure sessions and programmes are well planned, resourced and appropriately underpinned by solid research and evidence.
-  Is relevant, accurate and factual, including the use of correct terminology.
-  Is positively inclusive in terms of the protected characteristics.
-  Is designed to include the development of knowledge, skills and values to support positive life choices.
-  Uses positive messaging, that does not cause shame or victim blaming.
-  Challenges attitudes and values within society, such as perceived social norms and those portrayed in the media.
-  Reflects the age and stage of the children and young people and is tailored to the environment and group.
-  Utilises active skill-based learning techniques that accommodate a range of learning styles.
-  Ensures that children and young people are aware of their rights, including their right to access confidential advice and support services within the boundaries of safeguarding.

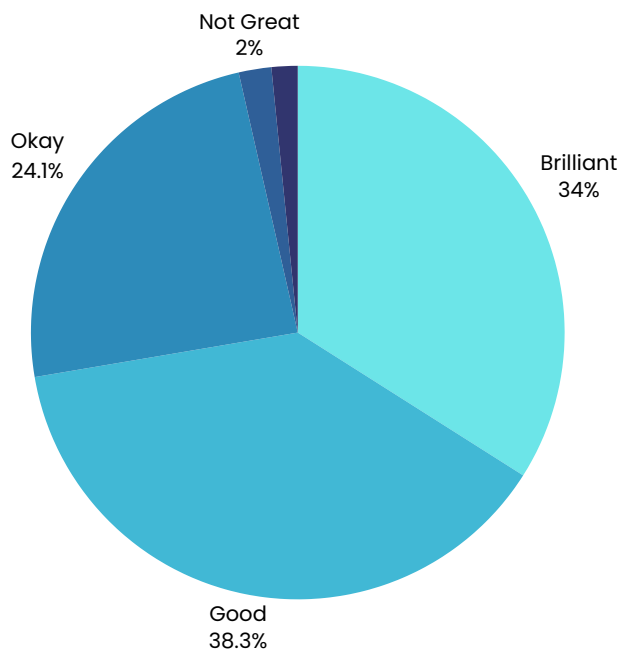
05

FEEDBACK FROM ALISON'S SESSION

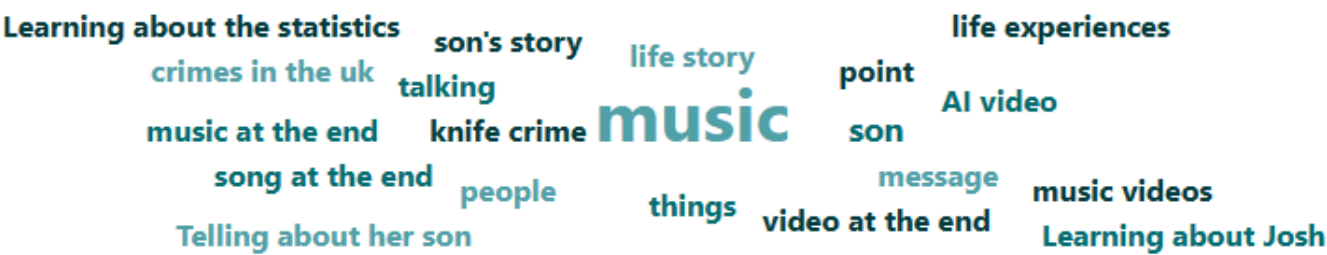
As part of the agreement to fund sessions, it was stipulated that the school would need to collect evaluations both directly after Alison's session and after the follow-on session to enable the funder to have insight into the impact of these sessions.

Here is an overview of the feedback from students following the session delivered by Alison Cope in their respective school.

What did you think of today's session with Alison?



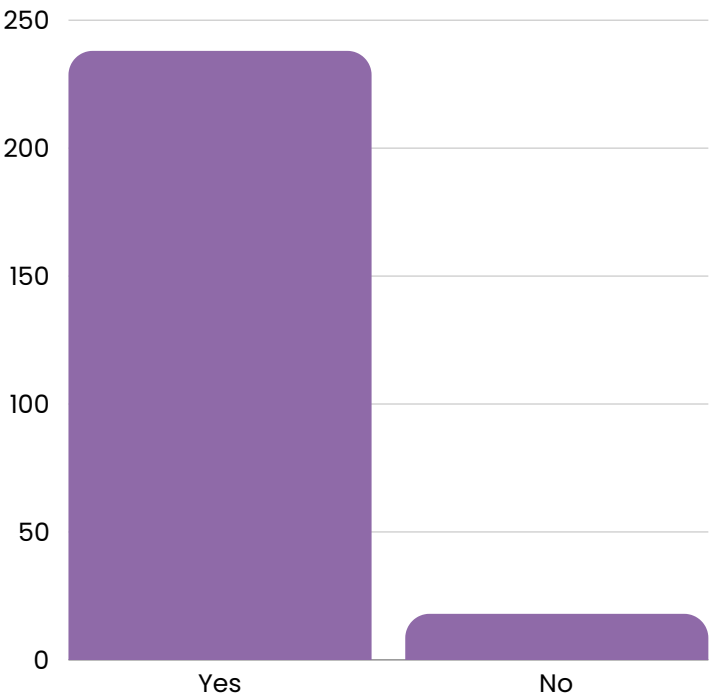
My favourite thing about the session was:



My least favourite thing about the session was:



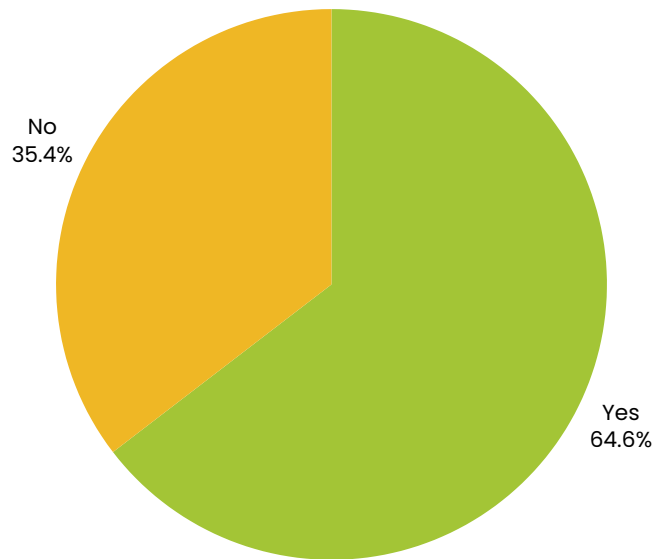
Did you learn anything new from today’s session?



If you did learn something new, what did you learn?



Based on what you have learnt today, are you going to do anything differently in your life – now or in the future?



Here's is a selection of examples young people gave about the changes they were going to make:

TELL MY MOM I LOVE HER
EVERY TIME I LEAVE

BE LESS AFRAID THAT
SOMEBODY IS CARRYING A
KNIFE AS LESS PEOPLE THAN
I THOUGHT CARRY A KNIFE

NOT WATCH FIGHTS OR TAKE
PICTURE LIKE YOUR IN A
GANG

Avoid going outside	Probably
Tell my Mom I love her every time I leave	Not kill anyone or threaten people with a knife
Not watch fights or take picture like your in a gang	Be aware of what you are doing and not get into violence
Be careful about what I post	Not to do gang signs or to join in fights
I'm not the type of person to get involved in anything violence but I will stay away from anything violent no matter wat. I will also spread the word and be more aware of my phone.	I am not the sort of person to get involved and encourage anything violent but always be careful about what you put on social media because you never know what will happen
Not watch fights to help myself from any trouble	I never going to watch a fight
Say I love you to my Mom and think about my actions before I do them	Be myself but stay out of trouble and I will be okay
I don't do a lot but you can always improve	Be careful on what I put on my story
Not going to do any gang signs	Be aware of my actions and watch out for any dangers of knife crime
Be aware of what I'm doing or what I post	Not take part in watching a fight because I know the consequences of joint enterprise
The amount of knife crime is not as much as I thought in my local area and I don't message random people on social media but I am going to check my surrounding and not go out without a trusted person	Stay away from negative people
I'm not going to troll the internet	Think before using social media and impact our words can have
Be careful out in public and avoid conflict because 2% of people carry a knife	Be even more careful about what I put on the internet

Think about the people who have a positive or negative people	Not post ride pictures on social media as a joke but I don't run towards fights or have social media
Not attend fights as they could escalate	Be careful what I post online
I am going to be more safe but not too paranoid	Not argue with people on the internet and not watch fights
Not go and watch fights	Not to post where I am or where I go to school
Be more aware	Call police or authorities.
Think about actions	Use social media responsibly
Respect myself and others	Be kind to family and friends
Stay out of drama and trouble	Respect elders
I'm going to be more appreciative of my family and friends and be more careful on social media	Become a more friendly person
Not do anything bad or hurt people although I always stay safe outside and don't get into trouble	Stay more safe and be more kind, although I am already kind
Be more careful and not support fights although I am already responsible	Avoid knife crime and avoid online dramas on Snapchat, WhatsApp etc...
To teach other people to not mess around	Be careful on social media
Stop being friends with the wrong people	Be more careful with what I post and say

Watch what I say	Be more aware of my surroundings although I am pretty safe with media
Be more careful	Be less afraid that somebody is carrying a knife as less people than I thought do carry knives
Not run to fights	Be less sharing online
Not cause a fight or murder	Not be bad although I am a good person
Not be bad although I am a good person	Delete stuff
Not expect everyone to have a scuffle	Be careful of what is in my photos
Make sure I am nice to everyone because I don't want anybody to get hurt, especially because of me or something I'd said or done	Be wary of groups of people that like like a gang (or up to no good in general)
Be careful what I do/post online	Not going to post stuff
Stop watching fights	I am going to continue to tell my Mom I love her more often
Not get involved in drama	Spend more time with my family
To not take people for granted	To find real friends
To be more considerate and get some help	Be more careful and be more considerate of others
I will be nice over message and real life	Because there are loads of arguments
When I'm out if anything happens walk away and be careful online	Be more safe online. I won't look at fights, although I don't do that anyway but it was good to know
Watch what I say and do more	Be more careful on the internet

Not go out at night because of knife crime,, drugs, guns etc...	Not to be a bystander and me more appreciative of what we have
Not to be a bystander and stand there watching a fight	Be more wary and aware of what I am doing online
Although I haven't and won't do anything bad in my life it will make me think about what I do	Watch what I do and say when things are going on
Watch what I say to others	I will be nicer to my friends
Not do anything stupid	Be better. Change the world
Not be a bystander	Be a better person and change the world
Stop going to fights	Stop running to fights
Be well behaved so I don't have to go to jail	Not post any offensive things
Think about actions	Not get involved in group chats
Think about what I say to people making sure to treat with respect although I haven't posted anything unkind on social media	Think about what I am doing although I don't get myself involved with stuff like that
Be more careful in case I get under anyone's target	Be careful although I don't use social media
Cherish my life and live it to the fullest	Be nice and not judge people without knowing their background story
Be kind	Be careful

Focus on my career in football	Be more responsible
I'm not going to associate	Not carry a knife
Live life to the fullest. Be nicer to people as you don't know what they have been through mentally or physically	Make sure I'm very careful in future with what I get myself involved in
Not carry a knife	Not go to jail/ go to fights
Make good choices although I'm well behaved and I never break the law	Make good choices although I am very well behaved and I follow the law
Stop getting involved with stuff and not argue with people	Not influencing arguments or fights
Not influencing arguments or fights	Make sure I don't hang out with the wrong people


Here's is a selection of examples as to the reason young people felt they did not need to make any changes to their lives:



I KNOW NOT TO CARRY
KNIVES



I DON'T WATCH PEOPLE FIGHT



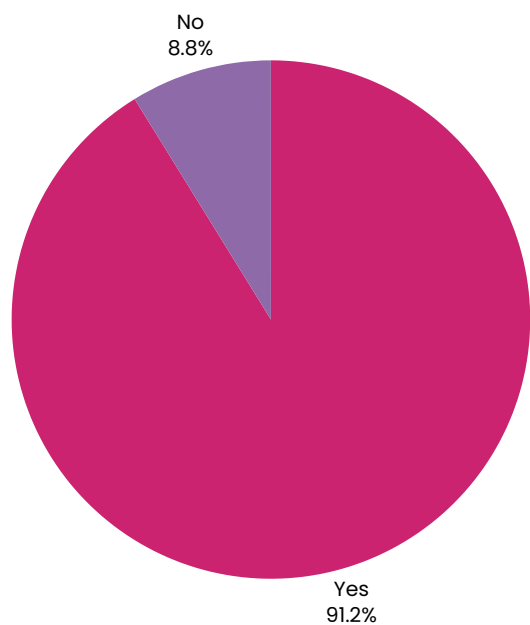
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING
BAD OR ILLEGAL IN MY LIFE
BUT I WILL BE CAREFUL TO
MAKE SURE I WON'T

I'm going to stick with what I'm doing	I don't get involved in gangs and knives
I don't message about people or post on social media	I don't really use the internet to post online
I don't get involved	I haven't done anything bad
I haven't done anything bad or illegal in my life but I will be careful to make sure I won't	I haven't done anything bad or illegal but I will be careful to make sure I don't
I don't post on social media about gangs etc...	I do it already
I know not to carry knives	I know not to carry knives
I don't do that anyways	I think I already present myself om a positive manner
I don't take pictures going gang signs or send rude/mean messages	I don't do things like that
I will live life normal and be careful in the future	I wasn't planning on robbery
I don't watch people fight	I do not say or do anything that could get me in trouble
I stay out of trouble	I didn't do it
I don't want to marry crocodiles they bite	I'm just not going to
I don't carry a weapon and I do follow the law	I don't carry a murder weapon when I go to the shop
I'm OK	I don't do that

I don't get involved in stuff like that	I do not do anti-social behaviour
I'm very careful online and I know what is right and wrong to post on social media	I don't really post online and don't really say nasty things to my friends
I don't carry weapons and never get the chance to watch fights	I 'm not stupid with knives in public
I don't carry knives	I don't carry knives
I do not condone in those activities	I am smart
I don't know that many people	I don't post things bad at all
I don't do anything on social media. I am kind and not rude to people online	I rarely post anything online etc... and don't participant in stuff
I'm not going to stab someone	I never get into any trouble and try to stay out of drama
I don't do anything dangerous	I don't be unsafe online or carry knives
I am not bad	I don't do that anyway
I don't do it anyway	I don't do any of these things so I don't need to
Knife crime isn't relevant to me	I'm not like that
I don't do stuff like that	I'm not a criminal
I don't break the law and won't in the future	I don't do things like that anyway
I haven't done anything wrong	I live a normal life

I don't really post stupid stuff	I am not part of any gang
I have never seen a fight	I already not to not carry knives
I already knew not to carry a knife	I'm not in a gang
I don't do bad stuff	

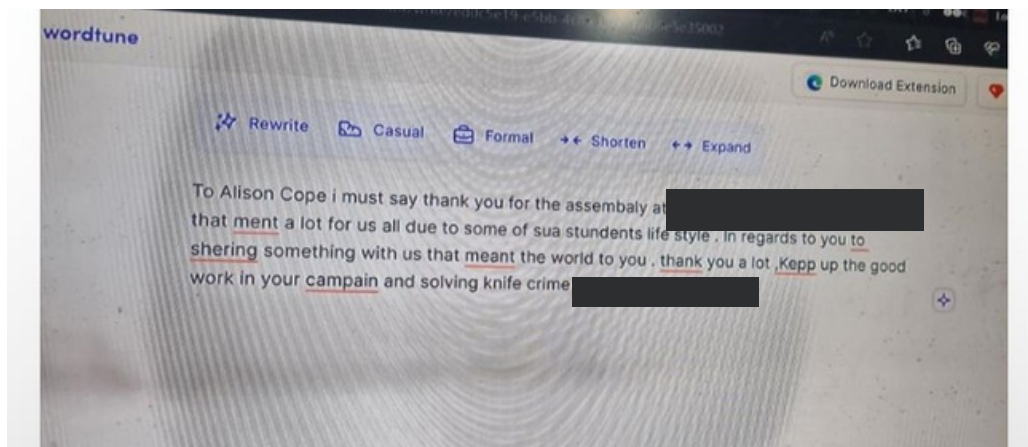
Would you recommend this session to other people your age?



After the session Alison also received some feedback from young people via her social media channels. Alison kindly shared these with us for inclusion in this report.

Stay strong! Its amazing what you are doing in the name of your son, keep persevering through and remember that he's always with you in spirit and allow that to push you and help you continue on your journey! Hope that you have an amazing day
x

thankyou for the talk today, josh's music has played a major part in me growing up i was lost for words when i seen you at the front of the hall, you're truly a hero to many 🙌



alison thank you so much for my assembly today i learned so much from it thank you and i am so so sorry about what you had to go through and thank you again it was lovely x

07

PARENT/CARER FEEDBACK

Alison is active on social media and kindly shared some feedback she had received from family member after delivering sessions in Cannock.

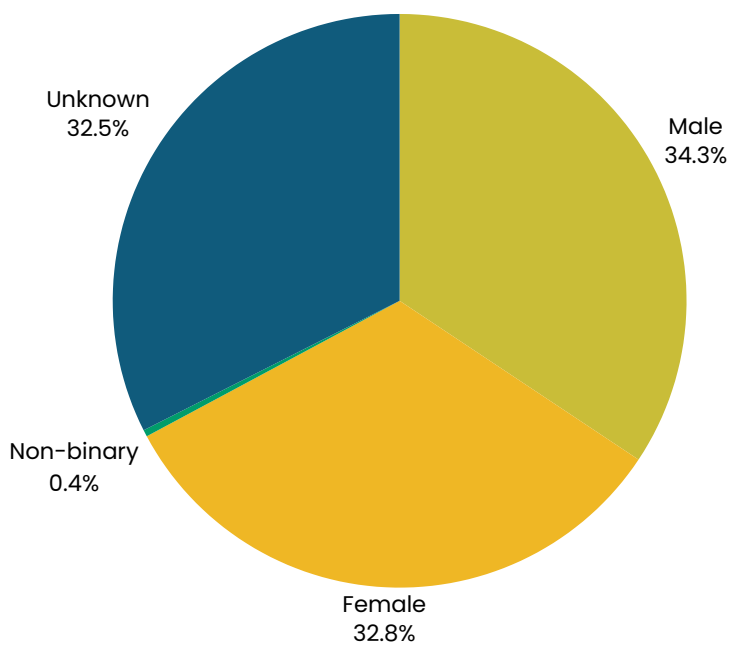
Hi I'd love to take this chance to thank you.
My grandson was in this group of year 9s.
as someone else has said my grandson never really talks about his day at school but since your talk he has not stopped, so much so I have searched your name to thank you and say what an impact this has had on him.
My nephew was stabbed in a completely random attack by a group of boys a few years ago, thank god he is still here to tell the tail.
Please keep doing what your doing, your amazing x

My Son is with me now speaking to me about your visit and talk, and it's had a real big impact on him. Thank you

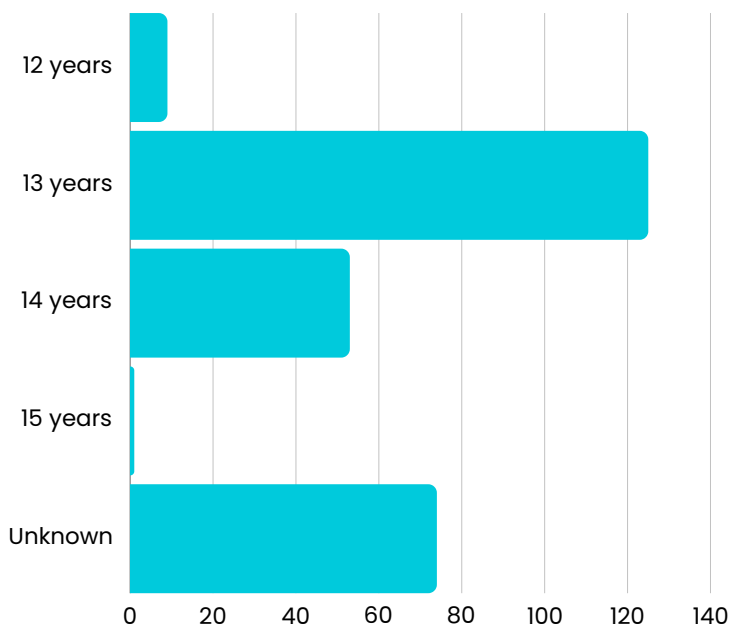
I have to reach out and thank you. My son never talks about his day but after this today he has spoke at length about the impact
Thank you

Demographics of Respondents:

Identified Gender:



Age:



Please note that some of the evaluations were completed as a whole form and so the response is for more than one person.

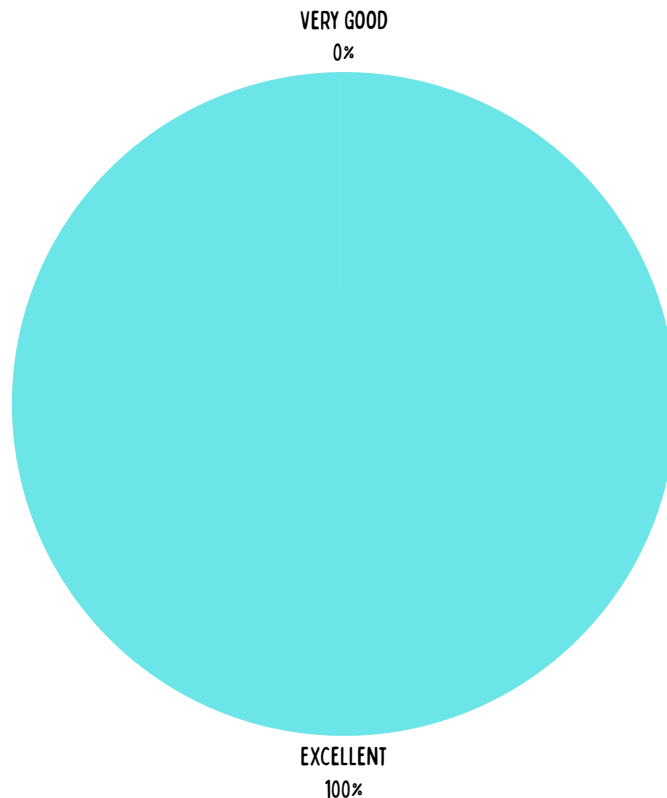
07 FEEDBACK FROM FOLLOW-UP SESSION

This section will be completed following receipt of the evaluations which will be completed after the schools have delivered the follow-up session.

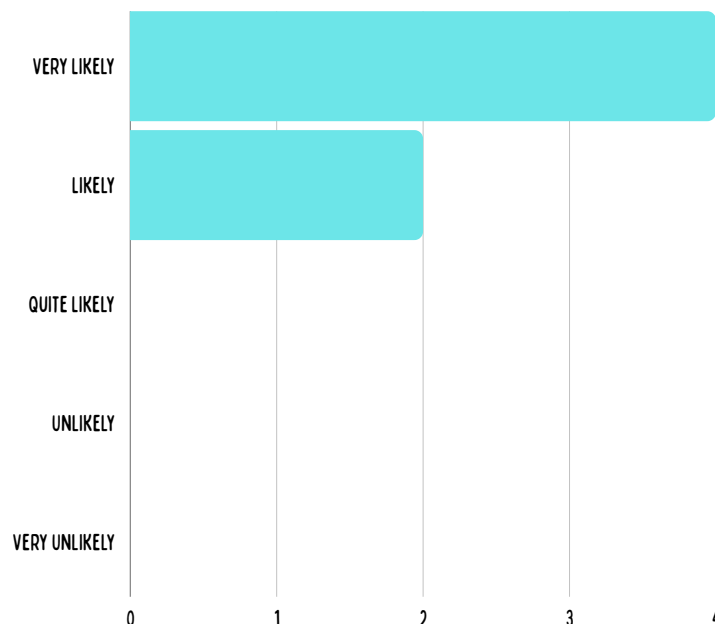
08 FEEDBACK FROM STAFF

Here is an overview of the feedback from staff at The Hart School following the session delivered by Alison Cope.

Overall, what did you think of today's session?



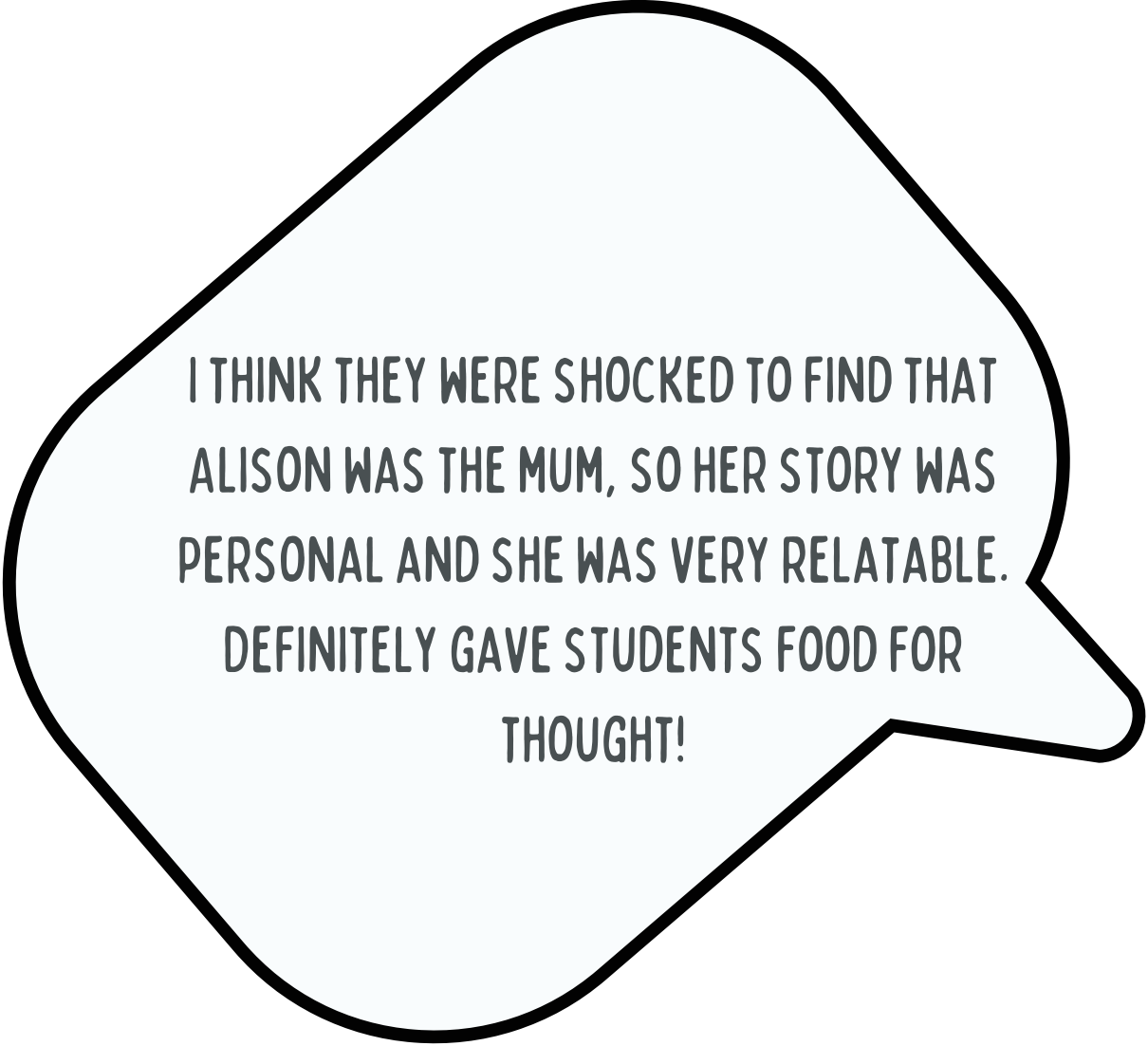
To what extent do you think the session will have a positive impact on your students' ability to keep themselves safe and enjoy their relationships without harm?



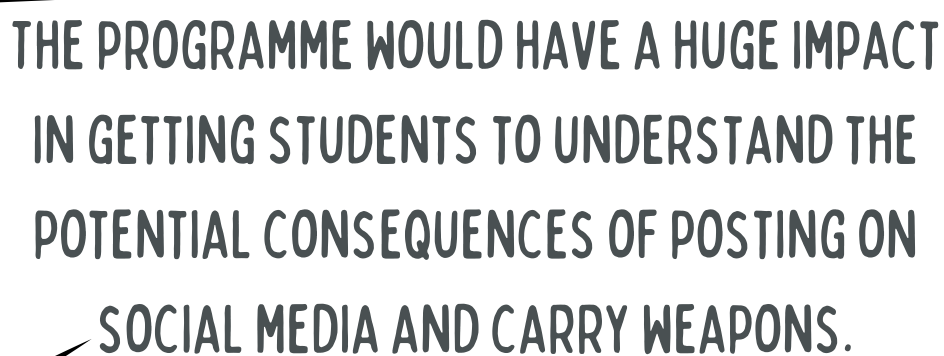
IT WAS SO EXCELLENT - IT WAS SO
WONDERFUL AND POWERFUL TO HEAR
ALISON'S MESSAGE. THE STUDENTS LISTENED
WELL AND THE VISUALS AND PRESENTATION
REALLY HELPED. THANK YOU

I THINK THAT ALISON COPE HIGHLIGHTED THE DANGERS OF SOCIAL MEDIA,
THE IMPACT THAT IT CAN HAVE ON YOUNG LIVES. I THINK THAT SHE ALSO
CLEARLY SHARED THE REALITY OF YOUTH VIOLENCE AND THIS WAS
INCREDIBLY POWERFUL FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, IN TERMS OF THINKING
ABOUT THEIR OWN LIFE CHOICES AND THE IMPACT NEGATIVE CHOICE COULD
HAVE ON FAMILY BUT ALSO THEIR OWN FUTURES. HER PRESENTATION WAS
INSPIRATIONAL AND HER STORY WAS HEART-BREAKING - IF IT STOPS JUST
ONE CHILD FROM KNIFE CRIME WHETHER AS A VICTIM OR PERPETRATOR IT
WAS 100% WORTH THEM EXPERIENCING THIS SESSION. THANK YOU TO
ALISON - WE NEED MORE PEOPLE SHARING THEIR STORIES TO PREVENT
YOUTHS FROM MAKING NEGATIVE CHOICES.

MORE AWARE OF CONSEQUENCES OF ACTING
MISCHIEVOUS



I THINK THEY WERE SHOCKED TO FIND THAT
ALISON WAS THE MUM, SO HER STORY WAS
PERSONAL AND SHE WAS VERY RELATABLE.
DEFINITELY GAVE STUDENTS FOOD FOR
THOUGHT!



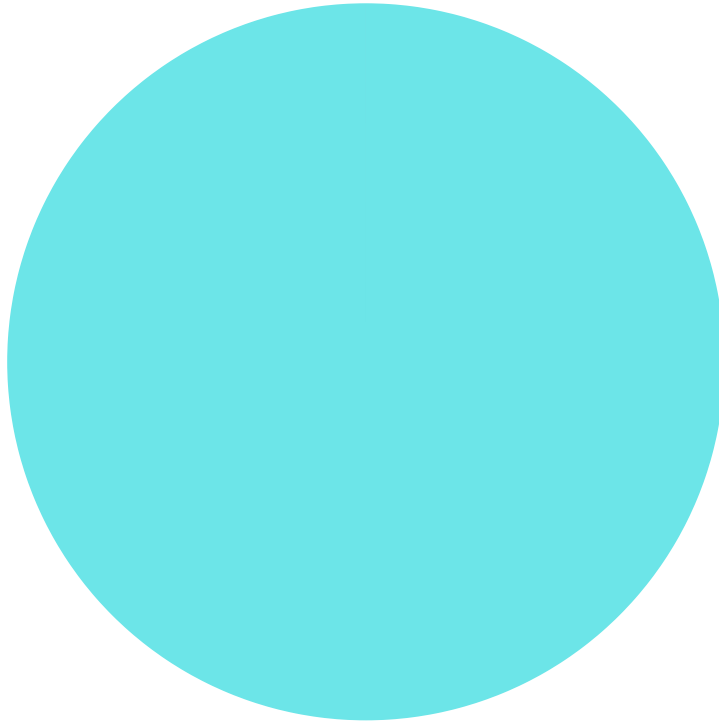
THE PROGRAMME WOULD HAVE A HUGE IMPACT
IN GETTING STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE
POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF POSTING ON
SOCIAL MEDIA AND CARRY WEAPONS.



THE SESSION WAS DELIVERED WITH POWER
AND IMPACT

Would you recommend this session to other schools?

NO
0%



YES
100%


REALLY ENGAGING AND
POSITIVELY FRAMED, THANK
YOU.

IT IS EFFECTIVE AND IMPACTIVE

SENSITIVE INFORMATION BUT
HARD HITTING - OUR STUDENTS
WERE SHOCKED INTO SILENCE!

A pink speech bubble with a black outline, pointing towards the bottom right.

IT NEEDS TO BE DONE

A large orange speech bubble with a red outline, pointing towards the bottom right.

THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME I HAVE SEEN ALISON
DELIVER A SESSION IN SCHOOLS, AND I STILL GET
GOOSEBUMPS EVERY SINGLE TIME. HER SESSIONS ARE
REAL, HONEST, RELATABLE, AND YOU CAN CLEARLY
SEE THE IMPACT HER STORY HAS ON THE STUDENTS
AND THEIR ENGAGEMENT DURING THE SESSION. I AM
IN AWE OF ALISON, HER WORK AND HER CAMPAIGN TO
STOP KNIFE CRIME. I WOULD 100% RECOMMEND HER TO
OTHER SCHOOLS!

A blue speech bubble with a black outline, pointing towards the bottom left.

I REALLY ENJOYED IT



PSHE

Education

STOKE-ON-TRENT
STAFFORDSHIRE



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