Facilitator
S5/S6 Modern Studies Class, Edinburgh

Contact details (email or address)

Meeting date
Wed 27th Feb 2019

Number of people who participated
56

Geographical area participants are from
Edinburgh
(Colintra, Oxgangs, Longstone, Pentland, Fairmilehead)

Feedback sheets
Submitting your feedback

Please complete this page with information about the meeting and return with the feedback sheets and data protection form

Group name (how you would like to be identified)

S5/ S6 Modern Studies Class, Edinburgh
Do you support the Bill's aim to end the physical punishment of children by parents or carers? What are the reasons for your answer?

24 pupils completed a questionnaire.
- 23/24 pupils supported the Bill's aim.
- 1/24 did not support.

Range of feedback:
- "No I don't support this bill. Can't prove that they smack their kid, so hard to police."
- "Smacking a child will result in that child doing the same to their children."
- "Children can be punished without violence."
- "Helps children to establish what force is right or wrong, can help the legal profession take a child out of a dangerous situation."
- "It counts as negative reinforcement. This causes depression and doesn't work."
- "It's not very nice, there are more effective ways to discipline."
- "It is child abuse, leads to violence."
- "Ban will reduce violence in homes."
- "Ban will create better family relationships."
- "Doesn't teach children anything useful."
- "Children do not need to be physically told off."
- "It is unfair to hit children."
What groups do you think would be impacted by the change? For example, parents, children, public services, the legal profession, etc. How will they be impacted?

Most pupils thought children and parents would be impacted because:

- "Physical contact in a harmful way won’t happen.”
- "May have to change their actions.”
- "Children feel safe at home.”
- "Parents aren’t allowed to smack, children won’t get smacked.”
- "If parents continue to smack their kids, they will have consequences.”
- "Find other ways to discipline children.”
- "Parents won’t be able to control/punish kids”.
- "Parents have to be more careful.”

Some felt the police/legal profession would be impacted.
- "Will affect children’s services.”
- "Less incidents to deal with.”
- "It would be illegal, police and social services would have to deal with this.”
- "Social services would have to bring possible smacking to attention.”
- "Legal battle might result to prove abuse.”
- "May be more legal cases about child abuse.”

Two pupils felt that teachers would be affected, no reason was given.
Do you think there will be any additional impact on groups with protected characteristics? For example, disability, race, religion or belief, etc.

Some pupils agreed there would be additional impacts for certain groups.

Recently:
- "People who are discriminated against are more likely to be threatened by violence."
- "Religion "certain religions may allow physical discipline."
- "Smacking might be part of cultural belief."

Those who did not agree:
- "It only affects children/parents."
- "Everyone should be treated with equal rights."
- "Will impact everyone the same."
- "Same for all children."
- "Everyone should be treated equally, therefore it won't affect anyone differently."
- "The law doesn't discriminate against anyone, it says that hurting your kids isn't ok."
Are there any equalities and human rights issues that you think should be considered?

- A few people left this blank when completing their questionnaire.
- Most children answered "no".
- Those who answered "yes" stated:
  - Right to a safe environment - children need to be protected in dangerous situations.
  - "Everyone has the right to protection and to feel safe - hitting children clearly goes against this."
  - "Children still have the right to be kept safe."
  - "Everybody's equalities."
  - "It is unfair to abuse children by disciplining them."
  - "Children have the right to feel and be safe."