

Foreword

For over 35 years, **Women's Aid's** has been working to prevent domestic and sexual violence, and to ensure the safety of abused women and children. There are three key aims to our strategy: **protection, prevention and provision.**

As well as meeting the needs of women and children survivors of abuse through the **provision** of high quality specialist services, and improving the **protection** available to abused women and children by ensuring that their needs inform developments in law, policy and practice, we have also been dedicated to the **prevention** of domestic violence through public awareness and education.

In partnership with our national network of over 370 local domestic violence services, we have significantly raised public awareness of the needs and experiences of women and children who experience domestic violence in many areas of public life, by communicating the message that domestic and sexual violence is unacceptable, and by promoting education and action to prevent it.

A key element of this work has been to engage directly with children and young people through our service provision and through partnership work, to promote safe, violence-free family relationships. The education of children and young people is an important arena for work on domestic abuse – unless we change the attitudes of children and young people, as well as their parents and wider society, domestic abuse will continue to feature in the lives of future generations.

Many local Women's Aid services not only provide specialist help and support for children and young people in refuge and outreach services, but also have for many years worked with schools and young people's services to address the issue. However this work has often been ad-hoc and, like many domestic violence services and resources, part of a postcode lottery.

Women's Aid was therefore delighted to have the opportunity to work with teachers to develop resources for work with children and young people in schools that would expand the existing resources and services currently offered across the country. With funding from The Body Shop, we seized the opportunity therefore, to provide a comprehensive resource that would enable domestic abuse to be addressed easily and regularly by schools throughout a child or young person's school life.

Specifically designed to be an easy-to-use resource and with additional online support provided by Women's Aid, we hope that teachers will make full use of the Education Toolkit in their work with children and young people, to improve responses to those affected now and to prevent domestic abuse in the future.



Nicola Harwin, CBE

Chief Executive

Women's Aid Federation of England

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The Expect Respect Education Toolkit is published by:

Women's Aid Federation of England

PO Box 391
Bristol
BS99 7WS

Telephone: 0117 944 4411

Fax: 0117 924 1703

E-mail: info@womensaid.org.uk

Websites: www.womensaid.org.uk and www.thehideout.org.uk

Lesson plans written by: Denise Harding and Kate Humphries

Contributing editor: Nicola Harwin

Editor: Nicki Norman

Design: Qube Design Associates, Bristol