**Lesson Plan for Miss School Miss Out**

**Learning Intentions:**

* Understanding why students don’t go to school
* Understanding the importance of attending school
* Understanding the range of support available if having difficulty at school

**Introduction:**

Welcome representative from EWS

Outline to the group what the purpose of today’s session is about.

Split the students into groups

**Activity 1: Why students don’t go to school**

Talk to students about the fact that a major part of the role of EWS is to ensure there is a high level of attendance in schools.

Using post-it notes students are invited to record *reasons why they think young people don’t go to school.* (One reason per post-it)

One volunteer from each group comes forward and sticks the post-it notes on the board/Thought Shower (Appendix1)

The facilitators will go through each of the reasons, discussing each one with the class as they go along, adding in any other reasons not mentioned by the groups.

Possible points:

* Hard for them to concentrate and can’t keep focused
* Don’t get on with their teachers
* Feeling like no one understands them
* Anxious most of the time
* Being bullied in school, on the way to school, at home, on the computer or on their phones
* Parents not caring if they go to school or not
* Parents need them at home to help them
* Home might be angry, violent or chaotic place
* Separation
* Bereavement
* Parents drink too much or take drugs
* Thrown out of school
* Pregnant
* Illness
* Living in care
* Language barriers
* New
* Feel as if they have no friends

**Activity 2: Attending school or not**

Half the groups will address the question *Why is attending school so important?* while the second half of the groups will address the question *What are the consequences of not attending school?*

Feedback to be given by each group, with input from the facilitators if any points are not raised.

*Why is attending school so important?*

* To gain qualifications
* To form social networks
* To find support on their journey
* To end up in positive relationships
* Sense of hope

*What are the consequences of not attending school?*

* Not to achieve good GCSEs’
* To become involved in drug and alcohol use
* To become involved in criminal activity
* To feel alone as a relationships break down
* Bogged down in swamp of life

**Activity 3: What is likely to happen?**

Provide each group with the following cards: (Appendix 2)

* The numbers 3, 3, 3, 3, 3 4, 7 and 7
* Not to achieve good GCSEs’ (3)
* To become involved in drug and alcohol use (4)
* To become involved in criminal activity (3)
* To feel alone as a relationships break down (3)
* To gain qualifications (3)
* To form positive social networks (7)
* To find support on their journey (3)
* To end up in positive relationships (7)

Each group is invited to match up the number of times they think each of the above points are likely to happen as a result of attending/not attending school.

**Activity 4: Who is here to help?**

Invite students consider the wide range of support available if you are finding it difficult at school.

Ask for a volunteer to assume the role of a young person who is having difficulty at school. Get them to read out a scenario of their difficulties (Appendix 3)

Ask the remaining students to contribute ideas as to who is there to help. As each student puts forward an idea they begin to build a circle/network of support around the student having difficulty.

Examples of support:

* Family members
* Friends
* Teachers
* Form teacher
* Classroom assistants
* Learning mentor
* School counsellor
* Doctor
* CAMHS
* Youth Worker
* Church
* Social Worker
* EWO

One of the facilitators can record the forms of support provided, adding in any others when students have finished.

**Activity 5: Role of EWS**

The facilitator from EWS takes this opportunity to speak to the pupils about their role.

**Activity 6: Miss School Miss Out Leaflet & Video**

EWO Introduces the new Miss School Miss Out leaflet and plays video.

**Plenary:**

Show the video clip to students.

Question and Answer session – provide each student with an information leaflet to take home.

**Resources:**

Post-it notes

Markers

Thought Shower in display board

Flip chart paper

Flash cards on Research

EWS leaflet for each student

Laptop

Data Projector

Speakers

Scenario

Video Clip

**APPENDIX 1**

**APPENDIX 2**

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| 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 4 | 7 |

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**APPENDIX 3**

**Possible Scenario**

**You are a pupil at the school with the rest of this class. You have been experiencing bullying from a group of pupils from a nearby school. They are stopping you on your way to and from school and taunting you as well as taking your school bag and throwing your books on the ground. They have also taken your lunch money.**

**Talk to the class about this and ask them for help.**