



European Teens united in cyberspace to tackle bullying.

Worle Community School have again participated in one of Actionwork's innovative anti-bullying projects.

Actionwork today took three year 10 students from Worle School to the Actionwork internet portal where they interacted online in a virtual 'bullying' role-play with students from Germany. One of the Worle students was the mediator for the session. The students agreed it was great fun and a good way to tackle the difficult issue of bullying and to interact with students from other countries. The students were Sophie Tansley, Emma Cooke and Stephen Cross and they were facilitated by Andy Hickson, Director of Actionwork. Tomorrow the students will try out another virtual role-play with the same German students and later in the year will be participating in role-plays with students from five countries at the same time (UK, Romania, Spain, Italy and Germany).

This project is part of the Avatar@School pan European peer mediation project.

For the past 18 months, teams from the UK, Italy, Germany, Spain and Romania have been developing an internet-based virtual three-dimensional peer mediation project. This innovative project, called 'avatar@school', is an on-line environment for teenagers in schools throughout Europe and other parts of the world to co-operatively deal with bullying and victimisation as 'true-to-life characters in real conflict scenarios'. Using role-play game scenarios, avatar@school promotes peaceful coexistence in schools and aims to prevent violence amongst young people through peer mediation. Using tools developed from this project, it is now possible for students to interact and exchange ideas through 'virtual role-play' with students 1000's of miles away. In addition these very same students can help mediate conflict scenarios from the other side of the world.

This project is co-financed and sustained by the European Commission and is another life-changing step in bringing Europeans closer and working in partnership together. The project partners are: Cineca (Italy), Actionwork (UK), Zepf (Germany), Associazione Equilibrio (Italy), Sant Pere de Ribes Municipality (Spain), and Project Wolf (Romania).

For more information about this project or to find out how to get involved or observe a session, please see our website: www.avataratschool.eu or contact Andy Hickson in the UK on Tel: 01934 815163 or e-mail: avataratschool@actionwork.com

Actionwork has worked with Worle Community School on a variety of projects including:

- In 2007 Actionwork took 3 Worle School students to Japan on a cross-cultural peer mediation project
- In 2006 and 2007 Actionwork trained some Worle students in creative anti-bullying strategies and helped them develop their own successful workshops which they ran with students in other schools
- In 2006 Worle Boys Dance Group and Worle Drama group performed at Actionwork's international ipoweri anti-bullying conference in Weston along with 750 young delegates from around the world
- In 2006 Worle staff and students acted in 'Silent Scream', a film produced by Actionwork
- in 2005, 2006 and 2007 Actionwork performed a variety of anti-bullying shows and ran creative workshops with 100's of Worle School students.