

TEACHING WITH THE RESOURCE FAQS



> I'M WORRIED THAT I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT HIV TO TEACH IT.

This isn't about having the most up to date knowledge about HIV. We're not expecting you to be an expert and in any case, it's a field which is changing all the time. A basic knowledge is fine along with an understanding of some of the issues arising in relation to HIV such as stigma.

> WHAT IF THERE IS SOMEONE IN MY CLASS WHO IS HIV POSITIVE OR AFFECTED BY HIV?

You won't necessarily know if a pupil is HIV positive/affected, so you should assume that you may well have a child in your class who is HIV positive/affected. Having a child living with HIV in school poses no risk to staff or pupils. There is no known case of HIV transmission occurring at school.

> WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN HIV AFFECTED CHILD?

An HIV affected child is a person under the age of 19 who has at least one close family member (such as a sibling, parent or other primary carer) who is HIV positive. HIV affected children are more likely to have poor health and social outcomes compared to non-affected counterparts. According to the UN, children who are affected by HIV are especially vulnerable to:

- Early bereavement
- Early carer responsibilities
- Poor educational attainment
- Poverty
- Exploitation

Additionally, international studies have found that children who are affected by HIV are more likely themselves to contract HIV, representing a potential risk group.

> IF SOMEONE DISCLOSES THEIR HIV STATUS TO ME, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Under the provisions of the Equality Act (EA 2010), it is illegal to discriminate against pupils or staff because they have HIV. The Act also requires that the school should make reasonable adjustments to ensure people living with HIV can work or study at the school. Despite these legal protections, there are still cases where children are refused a place or excluded and staff are sacked or not employed, solely because they are living with HIV. If someone discloses their HIV status to you, ensure that they are well supported and agree who needs to know the information and what (if any) support or allowances they require from school. There are lots of support groups such as Body & Soul who can also deliver training and advice to staff on the best approach to supporting the needs of young people living with HIV.

FAQS

> HOW SHOULD I DEAL WITH RESISTANCE FROM TEACHERS / PARENTS ABOUT TEACHING THIS SUBJECT?

It is important to listen to people's concerns which may be a result of anxiety and/or ignorance and then address these concerns sensitively yet assertively. The children in your school have a need and a right to have up to date knowledge about HIV.

> ARE THERE HEALTH & SAFETY PRACTICALITIES THAT I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

No. HIV is only transmitted through sexual contact, breast feeding or blood-to-blood transmission. Having a child living with HIV in school poses no risk to staff or pupils. There is no known case of HIV transmission occurring at school.

> HOW DOES HIV IMPACT ON A CHILD'S LEARNING?

Some children experience some physical and cognitive developmental delay as a result of HIV

> IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE EXTERNAL SPEAKERS DELIVER LESSONS ON HIV / LIFE IN MY SHOES / BODY & SOUL?

Yes, [please contact](#) us to organise. We can deliver school assemblies, workshops and speakers that can be tailored to your school and class needs.

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