

### 3 GOLDEN RULES FOR TEENAGE PARTIES OR GATHERINGS

**Objective:** To identify potential risks, as well as their subsequent consequences, that could occur when hosting a teenage party or 'gathering'

To develop rules that could minimise these risks

**Materials:**

- Worksheet – 'Teenage Parties: Risk Assessment'
- Pens
- Butcher paper
- Textas

Students are given the worksheet 'Teenage Parties: Risk Assessment' and asked to read the newspaper story provided ('Teen party goes wrong and home trashed') individually. Once it has been read, have a brief classroom discussion about teenage parties and gatherings and some of the things that can go wrong. Ask for their thoughts on what would have been the worst thing about that party for the different people involved, i.e., Jade Newman (the birthday girl), her mother and their neighbours.

Once completed, students are to complete the activity on the worksheet by listing the potential risks associated with hosting a teenage party or gathering. These risks should not only be around alcohol and other drug use. Students should be asked to think more broadly and consider basic 'health and safety' issues, e.g., gardening tools left on the ground, swimming pool safety, electrical cords lying around, etc.

Students are then to be organised into small groups (no more than 6 students in each) and a group leader and scribe are chosen. Members of the group are to share their list of potential risks and a group list is to be compiled and written down on a piece of butcher paper. As this is being done, the teacher may wish to ask the students if they are able to classify the risks they have identified into particular groups, e.g., alcohol risks, general safety risks, neighbourhood risks, etc.

Once completed the students are to be brought together and each group leader is to present their group's list of potential risks, highlighting some of the ones they believe to be most important. Teachers should comment on any risks that particular groups may have identified that were unique and that had not been identified by others.

Groups are then set the task of developing possible rules that may address the risks that they had identified, ensuring that they have a rule that covers each risk, being aware that sometimes one rule may actually impact on a number of different potential risks. Using a piece of butcher paper, scribes are to list each risk and its corresponding rule:

- **risk:** gatecrashers- people who weren't invited
- **rule:** 'invite only' – there must be a guest list made and adults are at the door to ensure that people who are not invited are not able to enter the party

It is vital that students develop rules that are realistic and don't stop the party or gathering from being 'fun', i.e., they have to be rules that young people would want to use.

Once all groups have completed their lists, the class is brought together and the rules they have developed are displayed and discussed. Students are then asked to select the best rules from those that have been put forward by the groups. When selecting the 'best' rules, students should base their choices on the following criteria:

- do they think the rule would be effective? Would it work?
- is it practical? Could the people hosting the party actually do it?
- is it a rule that you would follow?

These should be listed on the board or on butcher paper with the teacher trying to ensure that the number is limited (a classroom Top 10 is ideal). Students will be then asked to identify their favourite rule (one only) and a vote is taken (either by a show of hands or a formal ballot) that will identify the '3 Golden Rules' as chosen by the class. These rules can then be adopted by the class as those that are used by students when they host a party.

## ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES

Once the '3 Golden Rules' have been chosen, students could be asked to include them in a design of an invitation to a teenage party or gathering. Students should be encouraged to find creative ways of incorporating the rules into a design and not simply list them.

