

JOEY, PETRA and MARK

PETRA: Cos you asked me, cos they've had anti-bullying week this week in school, and you asked me if I thought you were a bully, and I said well I didn't really know, not as far as I'm aware, but – and then you didn't like that did you – cos you make it sound like I am...no I'm not with you all the time, I'm not with you in class so I can't speak for when I'm not there...what do you think you're a bully?

JOEY: Sometimes, yea

MARK H: Could that lose you friends? (Joey nods) And the kind of bullying things that you can get in to, would that include shouting in people's faces? (Joey nods) Would there be other things too that you think people might count that as bullying?

JOEY: Um, making fun of people...I do that a lot

MARK H: Anything else Joey? What about, um, rubbing peoples drawings off the board

JOEY: I've done that once

MARK: What about the fighting, was that ever, could that ever have been called bullying, the fighting you get into or not?

JOEY: I think yes

MARK H: And what do you think about bullying, do you have, like a position on bullying, what's your? I know schools don't like bullying but what do you think?

JOEY: I think that, like, not everyone's going to get on, but.....

MARK H: So if you don't get on, what, you know...what were you going to go on to say?

JOEY: Oh I can't explain

MARK H: I was just asking about what you think about bullying cos some people really hate bullying, some people think well bullying's OK, it's just the way the world goes, you know...I wondered really what you thought about that. Are you a bit in the middle or it depends who's doing it or

JOEY: A bit in the middle...I mean people can be, like, criticised in a way and, like, um, obviously there's the joke, there's joking but then I think it can be taken past joking, to a certain point

MARK H: Yea, or you might think you're joking but they might feel it like bullying

JOEY: Yea

MARK H: So that's two other things, it could be taken past joking, it might start off joking and go to far, and it gets really personal or something, or it might feel like joking to you and it might not feel like joking to them – are those things you think you might have got in to at times

JOEY: Yes

MARK H: Which ones of those things?

JOEY: Both of them. Um, I've actually realised that in the circle time that we did...cos a lot...um I, there was a boy, um, who was one of my friends and I kept saying he was part of the midget club, and like, he sort of went along with it, and ...there was another friend, I made fun of his accent, and they went along with it as well and after that circle time it was a completely different view, first they were going along with it then they were completely upset.

MARK: Sometimes people go along with bullying to try and make it stop don't they, to try and stop themselves getting hurt – you've done that – when people have done that to you

JOEY: I think it can work sometimes but then, people, say if someone calls me an idiot I go "Yea, whoopiteedo, yea look at me, I'm an idiot" but then it can sometimes all get worse, cos they go "Ah, you've just admitted you're an idiot" so that

MARK H: This is a number I've got five different kinds of bullying here you've found yourself getting into at times, what, I mean, I'm just not sure what you think about all these things, whether you think they're OK or partly OK or not OK or... shall I go over this, er, making fun of people kind of bullying, shouting in peoples faces, fighting, er, going past joking and joking but the other person feels like it's bullying...what do you think about those kind of ways of acting towards, you know, between children?

JOEY: I think the joking thing is perfectly normal, but I think, um, shouting, arguing, physical fighting, I shouldn't be doing it.

MARK: Have you got into arguing kinds of bullying as well in the past?

JOEY: Yea

MARK H: Cos arguing with your dad, you probably wouldn't call that bullying would you...but you've got into arguing that could be called a kind of bullying?

JOEY: Yea

MARK H: And so if you're joking, but if you go on past joking you wouldn't call that bullying or you're OK about that

JOEY: Um, I think I'm OK about the joking part, but I think it's quite hard to tell when you've gone past joking, so that's the hard bit.

MARK H: It is hard, isn't it. Does it happen with you, like Tom jokes and then goes past it and he might not know?

JOEY: I do think there has been times, but not times that I can remember

MART: There are times where Joey tolerates Tom's attitude, behaviour, although Tom has been pretty much oafish, is probably what I'd best described Tom as, and there are times where Tom's behaviour is, is almost like a red rag to a bull with him...it depends on Joey's mind-set at the time as to how he deals with it

MARK H: So you've been on the receiving end maybe of some of this stuff yourself...do you think that's made it easier for you to get into...having been on the receiving end like if you've had to receive it you might feel like dishing it out sometimes or something?

JOEY: No I've actually never felt like that but I do feel really bad once someone has said to me, like, you know "I think you're bullying me" because I have been on the receiving end of pretty much all the types of bullying and I don't like it and then, it sort of makes me feel sad that I've sort of been a bully, I don't really like it

MARK H: So how do you more want to be, so if you don't want to be a bully how would you describe the way you do want to be like...if you're getting away from bullying what are you getting towards, what kind of way of being or treating other people are you getting more towards?

JOEY: Um, I don't know...the...just a good friend really

MARK H: A good friend? What's involved in that? In good friendship?

JOEY: Treat them with respect

MARK H: Respect, so that's what you want to get more towards, respect, yea.