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## **VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL ISN'T JUST A SCHOOL PROBLEM**

*Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, and Singapore (November 7, 2007)* – According to the whole-school community approach, it is not just pupils and teachers that have a role to play in managing relationships in schools. Helen Cowie and Dawn Jennifer in their new publication, *Managing Violence in Schools* (published this month by SAGE), say that the key starting point is a needs analysis with detailed guidance on how to do it!

The whole-school approach involves not only teachers and pupils in tackling violence in schools, but engages everyone from senior management and governors, to caretakers, lunchtime supervisors and parents, to those in the community: local businesses, other schools, the education authority, nurses, police, voluntary agencies and child services such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

The method focuses on encouraging emotional literacy through peer-group support, restorative practices and mediation. From setting up an email peer-support service to running a lunchtime club or offering one-to-one support, the authors suggest this approach can result in a more caring school environment, reducing bullying, offering peaceful resolutions in place of violence, and improving the reputation of a school more widely in the community.

The book offers practical exercises, case studies and checklists for practitioners, trainee teachers, school managers and local authority advisors engaged in managing school relationships. There is also detailed guidance on how to conduct a needs analysis to address the issues raised, and to train pupils in effective communication.

Helen Cowie and Dawn Jennifer, both of the University of Surrey, offer a wealth of experience in managing school violence, as the UK representatives for VISTA (Violence in Schools Training Action) and the UK Observatory for the Promotion of Non-Violence: Working With Children and Young People. For more information on their work visit <http://www.ukobservatory.com/index.html>

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*Managing Violence in Schools A Whole-School Approach to Best Practice* is published by SAGE and is available in both paperback and hardback. For further information click [here](#).

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