Friendships scenarios

Purpose
To enable the students to develop a greater awareness of possible outcomes and consequences of decision making.

Teaching notes
This activity aims to present real-life situations to the students to allow them to develop problem solving skills and to consider preventative strategies and possible ways of reacting in such situations. It is best presented after some work has been completed on healthy friendships and relationships.

Procedure
1. Divide the students into eight groups and distribute a scenario to each group.
2. Ask the students to read their scenario and to discuss the questions.
3. Invite each group to report back to the class.

Discussion
A class discussion could focus on some of the following points:

- Did you think the scenarios were realistic? Why or why not?
- What other options might each of the characters have had?
- What would have happened next to the feelings, self-esteem and friendship groups of each of the characters?
- Where/who can we go to for help around these issues?

Key Messages
- It is crucial to develop positive skills which will enhance and build social relationships.
- It is important to assert your own personal values around issues which impact on relationships.

Activity Details
- Health & PE: Examine barriers to seeking support and evaluate strategies to overcome these
- Capabilities: VCPSCE037
- Time: 40 minutes
- Levels: 7 & 8
- Equipment: one Friendship scenario card per group

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Scenario 1

Maria and Anna are best friends. When a new girl, named Sylvia, joins their class, they show her around the school and hang out with her. She becomes their friend. After a few weeks, Maria and Sylvia arrive at school together and completely ignore Anna. Anna is confused and finds out from other kids that Sylvia had Maria over to her house for a sleepover. Anna is excluded by Sylvia and Maria for the next few days. A week later, Sylvia rings Anna at home and tells her that she and Maria have had a fight. She invites Anna to the movies.

- What caused the problem in Anna and Maria’s friendship?
- What did Sylvia do and why might she have done it?
- What did Maria do that hurt Anna’s feelings?
- What should Anna do about Sylvia’s invitation to the movies?
- Can friendship groups work if they contain an odd number? E.g. 3, 5

Scenario 2

Jesse and Kyle have been friends since kindergarten. They hang out together at the skate park on the weekend. Jesse is great at doing jumps while Kyle has a bit of trouble because he’s not that well co-ordinated. A group of older boys from another school start hanging out at the park, too, and they are really good at skating. They are impressed with Jesse’s jumps and invite him to go to McDonalds with them. They don’t invite Kyle.

- What is the choice that Jesse has to make?
- How might Kyle feel?
- What could happen to Jesse and Kyle’s friendship if Jesse leaves Kyle behind?
- Do you think the older boys would be good friends to Jesse? Why or why not?
- What would you do if you were Jesse?
Scenario 3

Tiffany likes Joey and she thinks Joey likes her. She told her best friend, Andrea, that she and Joey sometimes sit and talk together after school while they are waiting for their parents to pick them up. Andrea starts to get annoyed if Tiffany mentions Joey. Tiffany finds out that Andrea has started spreading rumours that Tiffany and Joey are an ‘item’ and even implied that they have had sex.

- What is Andrea trying to do? Why?
- How might Tiffany feel about what Andrea has done?
- What should Tiffany do?
- How might the rumours affect Tiffany and Joey’s friendship?
- Can Andrea and Tiffany fix their friendship?
- What would you do if you were Tiffany?

Scenario 4

Alex feels really upset at the moment because his parents are fighting a lot. He asks his friend, Sam, if he can come over on the weekend, just to get away. Sam asks his parents if Alex can stay over and tells them about Alex’s parents. When Alex arrives on Saturday morning, Sam’s older sister greets him at the door and says, “Sorry to hear that your parents are getting divorced.”

- What might Alex be feeling?
- How did Sam’s sister find out about Alex’s parents?
- Why might Sam have told her about them?
- What was the older sister trying to do?
- What might Alex say to Sam?
Scenario 5

Rachael and Frank are best friends. They hang out at school and are definitely not in the most popular group. Kids tease them and call them the ‘old married couple’ because they are always together. One day Frank tells Rachael a secret, that he thinks he’s gay. He also tells her that he has a crush on her older brother. This makes Rachael angry and she runs off, refusing to talk to him for the rest of the week.

- What does Frank think about his friendship with Rachael if he is sharing such a secret?
- What might Rachael feel at the news that Frank is gay?
- What has made Rachael upset?
- What has to happen if they want to stay friends?

Scenario 6

Charlie, Tony and Patrick are all mates. Tony and Patrick have grown a lot over the last few months and Patrick’s voice is starting to change. When they get together after school, all Tony and Patrick want to do is talk about sex and compare their underarm hair. Once, they talked about looking at porn on the internet. Charlie feels embarrassed about this and he tells them he thinks girls and sex talk are boring. Tony and Patrick have started teasing him about being a ‘slow developer’. Charlie gets upset and starts to worry that there is something wrong with him.

- What has changed in the friendship between the three boys?
- Is there a way of helping the boys through this situation?
- What did Tony and Patrick do that was hurtful to Charlie?
- What do you think Tony and Patrick need to do to help the friendship group get back on track?
- Should /could Charlie do anything to ‘fix’ the friendship?
Scenario 7

In Jake’s friendship group, Matt is the only boy who has a girlfriend. Lately, Matt has been bringing his girlfriend to the skate park, the movies and, once, over to Jake’s house when they were watching DVDs. Most of the boys are jealous but don’t say anything. Matt is now encouraging all the boys to try and hook up with girls. Jake is annoyed because he likes it better when there’s just boys hanging out. Everyone acts more normal instead of showing off.

- What has changed the way the boys behave together?
- Why has it changed?
- Do all the boys like it?
- What does Jake need to do?
- Should he talk to the other boys?

Scenario 8

Kelly and Sarah have been best friends for a long time. They are used to spending all their time together. Kelly recently got her first boyfriend. He wants to come over all the time to hang out. Sarah is really lonely because Kelly is not around as much and, when she does come over, she brings her boyfriend with her. When Kelly and Sarah make plans, Kelly will cancel at the last minute to be with her boyfriend. When Sarah confronted Kelly about this, she just shrugged her shoulders and said Sarah doesn’t understand because she’s never had a boyfriend and that she’s jealous.

- What has changed the girls’ friendship?
- Is Kelly being insensitive or is Sarah just jealous?
- Do you think Kelly’s relationship with her boyfriend is healthy?
- How would you solve this problem for the girls?