

## School issues

English for Teachers B, Autumn 2023

### Unit objectives

After completing this unit, the students will be able to:

- understand the basic knowledge of the concepts of bullying, addiction, truancy and possibly other school issues
- provide clear detailed descriptions of experiences and describe feelings and reactions in the context of school issues
- use modal verbs to speculate about the impact of school issues on young people's lives
- use functional language to suggest solutions to the school issues that they may encounter in their future teaching career

### Warm-up



TRU\_\_CY



B\_\_YING



DR\_\_AB\_\_E



ANO\_\_IA

Look at the photos above and complete the issues they show. When you have finished, join another student and brainstorm other possible problems concerning students, teachers and parents in the school environment.

Now compare your list to the following list of possible school problems from the website called YoungMinds.org.uk, which helps young people with mental health issues related to school:

- **finding school work difficult**, or **having problems concentrating** in class if others are noisy and disruptive
- **exam stress**
- **tricky relationships** with friends and friendship groups
- finding lunchtime difficult, particularly if you **have eating problems, anorexia or bulimia**
- **not getting on with teachers**, or feeling like you are labelled as 'trouble'
- **bullying**
- receiving inappropriate comments from classmates or teachers; when these are of a sexual nature it is known as **sexual harassment**
- **problems at home** - your parents' relationship, sibling issues, a housing problem or simply feeling unsupported
- returning to school after having time away to look after your mental or physical health
- going to school with **anxiety, depression, OCD** or any other mental health condition
- going back to school **after being excluded, expelled or suspended**
- **specific learning difficulties** such as dyslexia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyspraxia, or autism

Source: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/problems-at-school/#Problemsyoumightaveatschool>

### Vocabulary building

Match the words with their definitions.

- |                      |                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. anxiety           | 9. exam stress                    |
| 2. sexual harassment | 10. well-being                    |
| 3. depression        | 5. eating disorder                |
| 4. suspended         | 6. specific learning difficulties |
| 7. get on with       | 11. expelled                      |
| 8. bullying          | 12. tricky                        |

- a. A feeling of unease, such as worry or fear, that can be mild or severe.
- b. Something that is difficult to deal with or understand because it is complicated or has many parts.

- c. Permanently removed from school or work due to a serious violation of rules or policies.
- d. The feeling of pressure and worry that a person experiences before or during an examination.
- e. Unwanted sexual advances or comments made towards someone, which can make them feel uncomfortable, intimidated, or offended.
- f. Temporarily removed from school or work due to a violation of rules or policies.
- g. Challenges in learning and processing information that are not related to intelligence, such as dyslexia or ADHD.
- h. Repeated aggressive behaviour towards someone, often causing them harm or distress.
- i. A serious mental illness characterized by starving oneself, overeating and vomiting that negatively affect a person's physical or mental health.
- j. To have a good relationship with someone; to interact well with others.
- k. A mental health condition characterized by persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and loss of interest in activities that were once enjoyable.
- l. The state of being happy and healthy.

Note: exercise created with the help of ChatGPT.

## Reading and vocabulary

Work in pairs. Each of you reads one half of the text and fills in the gaps. When you have finished, retell your half of the article to your partner and then listen to their part. Ask questions to find out more details.

anxiety, exam stress, mental health, performance, suspended, specific learning difficulties, well-being, bullying, divorced

### Student A

Going to school is an important part of growing up, but it's not always easy. Many students face problems that can affect not only their mental and physical health, but also their academic \_\_\_\_\_ (1). In this article, some common issues that students may encounter in school and some possible solutions are discussed.

One of the most common problems at home that can affect a student's performance in school is family problems. This can include anything from parents getting \_\_\_\_\_ (2) to financial difficulties. If you're going through something like this, it's important to talk to someone you trust, such as a teacher or school counsellor or school psychologist. They can help you find resources and support to cope with your situation.

\_\_\_\_\_ (3) is another issue that many students face. It can take many forms, including physical, verbal, and cyberbullying. If you're a victim or witness of such behaviour, it's important to tell someone right away. This could be a teacher, parent, or friend. Schools also have policies in place to deal with this issue, so make sure you know what your school's policy is.

\_\_\_\_\_ (4) problems such as \_\_\_\_\_ (5) and depression can also have a serious impact on students' lives. If you're struggling with these issues, it's important to seek help from a mental health professional. Many schools also have counsellors who can provide support and resources for students dealing with mental health issues.

✂-----

### **Student B**

\_\_\_\_\_ (6) is a common problem for many students, especially in certain periods of the school or academic year. To manage increased pressure, try to plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time to study. Make sure you're getting enough sleep and exercise and take breaks when you need them. You can also talk to your teachers about ways to study more efficiently, such as providing study guides or practice exams, in order to reduce the pressure.

Being \_\_\_\_\_ (7) from school is a serious issue that can have long-term consequences. If you're facing suspension, it's important to talk to your teachers and parents to understand what you did wrong and how you can make things right. It's also important to take responsibility for your actions and learn from your mistakes.

Finally, students may struggle with school requirements due to \_\_\_\_\_ (8) such as dyslexia or ADHD. If you're struggling with these issues, it's important to talk to your teachers about accommodations that can help you succeed in school. There are also many resources available to help students with specific learning difficulties, such as tutoring and support groups.

In conclusion, there are many issues that students may face in school, but there are also many solutions and resources available to help them overcome these challenges. Teachers play an important role in supporting students' \_\_\_\_\_ (9) and academic success, so it's important to reach out to them if you're facing any problems in school. Remember, you're not alone, and there is always help available.

Note: exercise created with the help of ChatGPT.

### **New vocabulary**