

Stealing



Stealing

Purpose

To learn about different types of stealing and why it is against the law.

Entrance of Pupils

A thought provoking slideshow introducing the theme of 'Stealing' for the pupils to enter assembly to (10 minutes)

Introduction

From a very young age we are taught that it is wrong to steal. It is immoral and is so important that not only is it the eighth of the ten commandments followed by Jews and Christians, but it is a major factor in all the World Religions.

What Is Stealing?

There are actually many forms of stealing. Some are obvious and few would think twice about saying that they were clearly wrong:

Armed Robbery

This involves the use of threats and weapons and is stealing on a very large scale from banks, warehouses, lorries and other places which hold a large amount of product. This carries a prison sentence of between 18 months to 20 years. Sentences of 4 - 5 years are common.

Burglary

Burglary is breaking into someone's house or property and attempting to steal items from it. Sometimes, this also involves the use of threats and violence. Victims not only face the loss of their property, often things that have a sentimental value for them, but also they now live in fear that their



home, which had always been a place of safety for them, is no longer secure and has become violated and spoilt. Burglars face up to 6 years imprisonment if unarmed and up to 13 years if armed.

Mugging and Pick Pocketing

Mugging is the act of attacking someone in a public place, often with the intention of stealing from them.

Pick pocketing is similar but without the element of attack. People are often unaware that they have lost goods such as wallets, purses and phones until later and therefore have no chance of identifying the thief.

Imprisonment can range from 1 - 16 years depending on the element of assault.



Shoplifting

Taking goods from stores is theft. The goods do not belong to the thief. Many shop lifters try to convince themselves that because companies are large and 'faceless', they are not really hurting others.

This is not true. The price of goods includes ingredients and materials; a workforce to make the product; cost of running a shop including staff wages, electric, rent; taxes paid on goods to the government; insurance and covering the cost of huge amounts of stolen revenue.

Companies have to put up the price of goods to cover their losses. That means that every single one of us is having to pay more for every item that we buy simply because of shop lifters.

Watch the short video clip.



Taking things that belong to others

We know from a young age that taking something that is not ours—from a sweet in a shop: money; to other people's possessions— is wrong. No matter how small the item is in value, this is still theft. But how often have we 'excused' ourselves by trying to convince ourselves that we are only 'borrowing' the item and intend to return it?

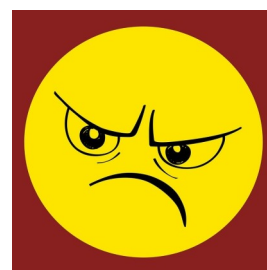
'Borrowing' Without Permission.

T.W.O.C. (Taking **W**ithout the **O**wner's **C**onsent) describes taking a car, motorbike or other motor vehicle and using it without the permission of the owner, including a member of the family, neighbour or friend. This is illegal.



How do Victims Feel?

- Angry and upset that they have been stolen from.
- Afraid that something might happen again.
- Disappointed with someone they thought of as a friend.
- Mistrusting of everyone.
- Out of pocket because of loss of an item or insurance not covering all the cost.
- Anxious that trouble may happen at anytime.
- Difficulty sleeping.
- Tearful and emotional - affecting their normal life.



Is There Such a Thing as a Victimless Crime?

Thieves would like to believe so, but actually all theft affects us. Sometimes it is an individual who suffers, but often the cost of theft is added to the price of goods and insurance premiums and paid by everybody.

There is no such thing as 'victimless theft'.

What are the Consequences of Stealing?

- You may get into trouble with other kids, parents, teachers or even the Police.
- People may not trust you in future.
- You could lose friends.
- Friends' parents may think you are a bad influence on their children and you won't be invited to their houses.
- You may be banned from a store if the owners think you are stealing.
- Schools can issue sanctions including fixed term and permanent exclusion



Legally there are consequences too.

Stores have the right to detain you and call the police. It is usual that parents /carers are informed. Penalties range from:

- a police warning in front of your parent or guardian.
- a fine.
- community service.
- a police record.
- an A.S.B.O. (Anti Social Behaviour Order.)
- a C.B.O. (Criminal Behaviour Order.)
- or even youth custody.
- Repeat offenders convicted of shoplifting, can be fined or jailed for up to 6 months if the goods are worth up to £200; or imprisoned for up to 7 years if the goods are worth over £200.



What Should you Do if You Know Someone Who is Stealing?

If your friend is stealing or trying to get you to steal, there are things you can do:

- Tell the friend that stealing is wrong. S/he may get upset with you, but you need to let him know how you feel.
- Tell one of your trusted adults. This is not 'grassing' or 'snitching', this is trying to help your friend stay out of trouble and learn what is right before things escalate further.
- Don't hang around with someone who steals, because you could end up in trouble too because of the rules about 'Joint Enterprise'.
- Make sure that you and your friend hang out with positive people.
- Don't ever join in with stealing. It's not cool. It's stupid. Just look at the people who spend most of their lives in jail because they steal from others. Is that where you want to spend your life?



Taking Precautions to Keep Yourself and Your Property Safe

- ◆ Don't leave possessions out and about in temptation's way.
- ◆ Ensure things have your name on them in school and don't take things of value to school if you can possibly help it.
- ◆ Have your bike recorded on the National Bike Database.
- ◆ Lock your bike up with a good quality padlock and within street lighting.
- ◆ Put your money and phone etc. in a zipped bag that can be worn over the shoulder.
- ◆ Take particular care in busy places like buses, train stations, crowded shops.
- ◆ Be aware that gangs of pickpockets may work together, some will distract whilst others steal eg. watching street theatre such as magic acts or human 'statues'.
- ◆ **If approached in an intimidating manner, always give the item the thief wants to them. It is better to lose something than be hurt or injured. 'Things' are replaceable—you are not!**

Message to Thieves:

The UK has the largest number of CCTV cameras in the world with approximately 4 million. London has two thirds of a million alone.

Many of these are in shops and towns. You are being watched. It is estimated that you are caught on camera over 200 times EVERY DAY.



The Bible says:

There are many, many bible quotes which relate to stealing.

‘The Lord gave the following rules to Moses. A punishment is to be made if anyone sins against the Lord by refusing to return a deposit or by stealing something or cheating or lying about something that has been lost, swearing that he did not find it.’

[Leviticus 6 1:3](#)

Let us Pray

Our Father

Who art in Heaven

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

Amen.

Putting it into Practice

Think about the five most prized possessions that you would hate to have stolen. Some may have monetary value and others may have sentimental value. How do you think you would feel about the thief?

Exit of Pupils

A thought provoking slideshow introducing the theme of ‘Stealing’ for the pupils to exit assembly to (10 minutes.)



Collective Worship and Putting it into Practice for the Rest of the Week

Day 2

Dear God

Give us, this day, our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us

Amen.

Write an acrostic poem about stealing based on one of the following words:

- **Stealing.**
- **Theft.**
- **Victim.**

Day 3

Dear God

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

Amen.

What do you think is an appropriate punishment for:

- **Burglary with a weapon (but not actually using it?)**
- **Shop lifting for the first time? And for the tenth time?**

Does your opinion change depending on circumstances - for example how well off or poor a thief is? The value of the goods stolen? The impact of the crime upon the victim? Whether threats have been made or carried out?



Day 4

Dear God

Please comfort and care for the victims of stealing.

We pray for justice, healing, reparation and reconciliation for all victims of crime.

May their faith in the goodness of the human race be restored.

Amen

Improvise a short play in which a pair of friends go to the shops and one of them decides to shoplift some DVDs.

Day 5

Dear God

We pray for those who steal. May they see the harm that they do and ask for forgiveness.

Help them to make amends for their wrong doing and, in a spirit of trying not to steal again, be welcomed back into the community.

Amen

Our prisons are overcrowded and some people argue that criminals learn more about how to commit a crime from other inmates.

Think about alternative ways in which a thief could :

- A. Be punished (detering you from committing further crimes.)
- B. Make retribution (paying back for your crime in some way.)
- C. Be rehabilitated (understand about the wrong they have done so that they don't wish to commit further crimes.)

