

# Young Campaigners

**PUPILS** have pledged to support a new campaign to help tackle hate crime.

**T**HE Hate Hurts campaign is being led by the area's Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Ron Hogg, who has brought together representatives from business, sport, education and the faith communities in a united stance against hate crime.

The high-profile campaign is informing people about hate incidents, encouraging victims and witnesses to report it and celebrating initiatives that promote tolerance and cohesion.

For pupils at Springfield Academy the campaign is being used to reinforce school work to recognise 'difference', help pupils to develop opinions and promote understanding and tolerance.

Year 5 pupil Harrison Eager, 10, said: "There's nothing wrong with being different, we all have something different about us but we are all equal in how we should be treated."

Year 5 teacher Kelly McManus welcomed the Hate Hurts campaign. She said: "I think it's a really good idea. Children are sometimes unkind not realising the full implications.

"They also have misconceptions about what the issues are so anything that encourages open discussion must be good. It is important that we all think about how we relate to others without hurting their feelings and don't just shun them for being different."

Hate crime describes a range of illegal criminal behaviours committed against someone else because of their disability, race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or some other perceived difference.

Mr Hogg believes education is key. He said: "I am encouraged by the tolerance shown by today's young people which is why I'm very keen for schools to be involved in the campaign."

Schools have been sent material which can be used as a prompt for discussion with extra copies available from the Get Involved page at: [www.hatehurts.co.uk](http://www.hatehurts.co.uk).

The campaign team also hopes to hear about any initiatives or projects on the topic. The campaign strategy is to Educate, Eradicate and Celebrate.

[www.educationvillage.org.uk](http://www.educationvillage.org.uk)

