

Understanding cancer

Key Stage 3 (11-14 years)

This fun activity is linked to elements of the National Curriculum:
English, ICT, Science and Personal Social Health Education (PSD and PSE).

Learning outcomes

- Learn the basic facts about cancer
- Consider and empathise with the emotions often felt by people who are affected by cancer
- Learn about how Macmillan helps people with cancer

Preparing for the activity

You will need

- A photocopy of the activity sheet for each pupil
- To watch the secondary *Cancertalk* video, 'Living with cancer', Scene 1 and 2. Alternatively you can watch the video clips on the Class Action site or read or listen to the stories on our youth website *Why Bother?*, in the 'real-life' zone

What to do

Explain how the body's cells grow, what cancer is, how it is treated, and how Macmillan helps people living with cancer. You can use, or go through together with your pupils, information from our youth website, www.macmillan.org.uk/whybother

Your students should then watch, listen to, or read about the real-life stories from the *Cancertalk* video, 'Living with cancer' or from the *Why Bother?* website. After this, there are a variety of things you can do along with completing the activity sheet on the next pages.

Additional activity 1 You can encourage the pupils to write their own poems that could inspire and support someone with cancer, or even describe a similar situation they have been in when they have been ill or how they have cheered up someone who was ill. These can be sent to your local Macmillan office and may be included on our youth or schools websites for people to read.

Additional activity 2 You can encourage them to produce a short role-play that helps the audience understand how people with cancer often feel and how they want to be treated. They could also include an example of how Macmillan helps people living with cancer, such as the Macmillan CancerLine, Macmillan health professionals, or Macmillan grants (financial support). A local Macmillan representative could come and see the role-plays.

Understanding cancer continued

Event idea

This activity can be done while taking part in one of Macmillan Cancer Relief's events, such as *Cancertalk* Week 23-27 January 2006, The Macmillan Miles Challenge 21-28 May 2006 or your own health promotion or fundraising event for Macmillan.

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Word search – find these 10 words

Macmillan	cell
nurse	smoking
healthy	doctor
chemotherapy	tumour
diet	medicine

M R P C S O D I E T U W
 A V A D M A S E T A M I
 C A U D O R O L U X E E
 M E L V K C R V M S D H
 I T L D I O T I O C I E
 L I N L N K T O U S C A
 L M U A G S L D R D I L
 A O R E O Z Q T I U N T
 N R S T L O E B O D E H
 C H E M O T H E R A P Y

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What does Macmillan Cancer Relief do?

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Here is a short story and poem written by Carey, 16, who had cancer.

Hello. My name is Carey. I wrote this poem when I was being treated for leukaemia – a type of cancer. I’ve gone through things like chemotherapy, feeling sick and losing my hair, and not being at school for months. I’ve had lots of help from my teachers and friends, am getting good grades and learning to play the violin and loving life.

Nobody likes the word
 Nobody likes to hear it
 To some it means death
 To us it means life
 Don’t give up hope
 Don’t give in to the word
 Fight the word, because that’s all it is
 To me cancer means love life, not death

What do you think Carey wants us to understand from her story and poem?
