

Bystanders

A **bystander** is someone who witnesses bullying happening.

Passive bystander – A bystander who does nothing when bullying happens.

Active bystander – A bystander who takes action when bullying happens (e.g. the people who supported Rosa Parks when she refused to give up her seat to a white person in the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott).



Some research (Craig and Pepler 1997, O'Connell 1999)...

- 85% of the time other young people are around when bullying happens
- Over half the time bystanders just watch the bullying and do nothing
- Just under a quarter of the time children actively help the person doing the bullying
- A quarter of the time children step in to try and stop the bullying
- If children did step in, they were successful 75% of the time in stopping bullying

What do you think?

- What does the research information above tell us?
- What do you think are some of the reasons that some bystanders don't speak up when they see bullying?
- What do you think all children need to feel safe in taking action to stop bullying?

Thinking points...

- Is the behaviour of 'bystanders' a problem in your school?
- What are your ideas for getting children to speak up and support people who are being bullied?
- Is there anything else you want to say?

