**LISTENING**

**POLL: TEN PERCENT OF TEACHERS CONSIDER QUITTING OVER SCHOOL VIOLENCE**

**Pre-listening activity**

*The words below are going to appear in the recording. Match them with their definitions.*

1. victim a) to abuse another person, threaten them
2. disappointed b) principal
3. bully (v) c) people who work at schools
4. staff d) a person who has been hurt by someone else
5. headmaster e) unhappy because your expectations weren't met

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**Listening activities**

*When listening for the first time, answer the questions below.*

1. What are the main reasons for abusive behaviour of some children towards teachers?
2. What possible solutions to the problem are mentioned?

*When you hear the recording again, decide whether these statements are true or false.*

1. Ten per cent of secondary school students want to leave schools because they're harassed by teachers.
2. Dr. Klima believes that sending gifted students to separate schools is beneficial for the educational system.
3. There aren't enough talented children in vocational schools.
4. Children get admitted to schools where the study is too difficult for them.
5. Even when children are wrongly placed at schools, they still excel.
6. At Czech primary and secondary schools, the teachers are mostly men.
7. Experts don't think that mixed staff would anyhow influence classroom behaviour.

**Post-listening activity**

*Match the beginnings and ends of these phrases.*

1. turn your a) problem
2. physical b) behaviour
3. widespread c) model
4. counselling d) discipline
5. role e) centre
6. vocational f) mechanism
7. strict g) back on
8. keep h) up
9. abusive i) school
10. defence j) attacks

## Speaking

1. How should a teacher motivate students?
2. How could a headmaster motivate teachers?
3. Could a higher number of male teachers at schools prevent bullying?
4. How would you punish bullying? Do you think corporal punishment should be reinstated again?
5. Should parents participate in solving the cases of bullying?
6. Why is it so difficult to keep the discipline in the class these days? Would separation of boys and girls help?
7. Could integration of gifted and motivated students with the others till the age of 18 solve the problem of abusive behaviour in the classroom?
8. What is the social status of teachers in today´s society? How could it be improved?
9. Can you list any advantages and disadvantages of home schooling?
10. Have you ever considered studying abroad? Why (not)?
11. How would you compare Czech and English / American school system?

## Writing

**Write e.g. a report on, a short paragraph, an e-mail…..**

1. Write a report on a bullying case you have heard of recently.
2. Write a 250-word paragraph on any question given in the speaking part.
3. Write an essay on the future of educational system in EU. What skills should be taught and tested? Does school kill creativity? Do we need any education at all?

**Answer key**

**Pre-listening activity**

1 d, 2 e, 3 a, 4 c, 5 b

**Listening activities**

*True/false sentences:* 1 F, 2 F, 3 T, 4 T, 5 F, 6 F, 7 F

**Post-listening activity**

1 g, 2 j, 3 a, 4 e, 5 c, 6 i, 7 d, 8 h, 9 b, 10 f

**Tapescript**

**Poll: Ten percent of teachers consider quitting over school violence**

30-12-2009 15:05 | Sarah Borufka

According to the findings of a recently published study, ten percent of secondary school teachers in the Czech Republic are considering leaving their profession due to growing harassment from students.

A new study titled “The Teacher as the Victim,” published in the magazine Pedagogika, reveals that more than ten percent of Czech teachers are seriously considering turning their backs on their profession due to an increase in verbal and even physical attacks from students.

The rise in aggressive behaviour towards teachers is a widespread problem in Europe, but certain factors in the Czech education system can exasperate the situation. Dr. Petr Klíma, director of the Prague 3 Pedagogic counselling centre, believes that sending particularly motivated and gifted children to separate schools, known as gymnasiums, works against the school system as a whole.

*“Those children are motivated, very gifted and come from families that put much emphasis on education. Simply speaking, they are good role models. On the other hand, the lack of such students in vocational schools has led to more relaxed standards in general. The strict discipline of the communist days is gone. Teachers are often disappointed and frustrated by the fact they find themselves faced with a class that is dramatically different from what they did expect.”*

But teachers aren’t the only ones that are frustrated.

*“One of the factors is, as I mentioned before, that children get admitted to schools that are too demanding for them. They find themselves completely unable to keep up. One of the ways of dealing with a lack of academic success and frustration can be such abusive behaviour. It’s not surprising. If you are unsuccessful and at the bottom of your class, and maybe the target of your teacher’s aggression because they are disappointed, abusive behaviour can act as a defence mechanism.”*

Soňa Černá, a teacher at a secondary school in Prague 6, has not experienced any student violence first-hand but can imagine that in some scenarios, students could become aggressive towards their instructor.

*“There were of course students who didn’t behave properly, who were troublemakers, but they didn’t bully the teachers. I can imagine that it can happen if the teacher shows their weak side and admits that they can be affected by students’ behaviour.”*

Another factor that is believed to contribute to the problem is the almost exclusively female staff at most Czech primary and secondary schools. Experts say that a mixed staff would almost certainly help increase discipline in the classroom, but the chances of getting more men to take up the profession are slim due to the exceedingly low salaries in the education sector. For the time being headmasters have resorted to the only solution within reach – they are making sure teachers get the benefit of psychological training in order to be better prepared to deal with the problem.