

# James's Story

## Background information:

James is a white British teenager who lives in the middle of a council estate which is mainly white, there is a Bangladeshi community who live in an area close by, most of them are British born. The estate that James and his family live on is deprived and run down.

James attends a local secondary school which is mainly white and he is in middle sets for most subjects, he plays a bit of football and spends most of his spare time with his mates, sometimes at a local youth centre. He has a younger brother.

## The story:

When James was 13 he suddenly began behaving very differently at school and was very angry, he was losing focus in his work and was arguing back to teachers. After discussions with teachers, James explained that his parents had split up and that he was finding it difficult to deal with.

When James was in year 9, during an RE lesson about Islam he made a comment: 'Muslims are all well strict and just pray all the time, plus they try and push their religion on everyone'

James was on facebook one day and liked the English Defence League (EDL) facebook page and copied a status that said Muslim men and women should wear British clothes or get out of the country. This leads him to join the English Defence League (EDL) facebook group.

Earlier in the year James had signed up for a school trip and was late giving the school the money, eventually he had to be asked to be taken off the list and explained that his mum had lost her job in the recession and he couldn't afford to go, he was very angry about it and blamed the local Asian community for his mum losing her job.

James becomes more involved in the EDL and attends a couple of meetings and demonstrations. James, along with other EDL supporters lead a campaign against the extension of a local mosque because he didn't want it to attract more Muslims into the local area

On non uniform day at school James and a friend come into school wearing an EDL hoodie, they are asked to remove the hoodie as it is considered offensive to others in school, James feels really angry about this. Later that day, during an argument with an Asian pupil James says 'You Pakis should get out and stop stealing our jobs' James was immediately suspended.

James was walking home with his mates after an EDL rally. They spotted a group of Asian boys, who they assumed were Muslim and started shouting abuse at them. After an argument between the groups, James attacked one of the boys, leaving him with a broken jaw and 16 stitches. James was sentenced to two years in a Young Offender's Institution.