

# SAFE HAVENS FOR JIMMY



## What is a Safe Haven?

A Safe Haven is any physical space (like a shop, café, youth club or school) that a young person can turn to when they feel unsafe.

▶ You can see Safe Havens in action here in Deptford, south east London

## When is it used?

Fortunately, most people don't ever have to use one, but wherever we've set up Safe Havens before, young people feel safer because they know it's there if they need it.

An example of using it might be if you feel like you're being followed, or if someone is acting in a strange way, or perhaps there's a group of other young people up ahead that you're not sure about and you think it's safer to wait inside a building.

If the worst were to happen and you were actually being chased, the adults in Safe Havens have committed to let you run in, lock the door behind you if possible and to call the police.

## How does it work?

The staff inside a Safe Haven – the owner, manager, other staff or security guards – agree to allow a young person to wait inside the building if they feel unsafe on the street. They can wait inside until they feel safe to leave.

Most of the time, staff don't need to ask anything, but they might just check that you're ok – you can point to the sticker on the window if you don't want to have to explain yourself.

If you feel you can't leave the building, you hopefully have the 'Be Fearless For Jimmy' card with the mobile number of an adult you trust – hand this to the staff and they'll call the adult to come and meet you.

If you think you are in more serious danger, it doesn't matter if you're not sure, please tell one of the staff and they will help you to decide what to do – they are always ready to call the police if needed, and they might also have the support of other Safe Havens nearby.

## Does it work?

After Safe Havens Walks people in the community feel safer, and they also feel more connected. Young people and business owners understand each other better, and care about each other more. Young people use these shops more, and act more kindly towards the staff; in turn, staff engage more positively with young people.

## Here are some examples of what people say

**“Talking to shopkeepers and telling them about Safe Havens gave me a better relationship with my community. It makes me feel safer now that I know that they are Safe Havens.”**

**Pupil at Grinling Gibbons Primary School**

**“Prior to Safe Havens, our approach to security in Lewisham Shopping Centre did not take into account that a young person running may, in fact, be in some form of danger. This has changed how we view situations and has meant the relationship with young people and the security team has improved drastically.”**

**Gordon Glean, Head of Security at Lewisham Shopping Centre**

**“For me, Safe Haven’s mean that if I am scared or getting chased, then I have a safe space to run where I can get help. After learning about what happened to Jimmy, I think there should be Safe Havens everywhere and I would definitely use one if I felt like I was in danger.”**

**Pupil at Deptford Green Secondary School**

**“I have two young children so their safety is a concern of mine. Safe Havens are spreading the values of family and looking after each other, which is something we want to see in our community to make it safe. You don’t just learn from school, you are moulded into becoming good citizens based on the community that you’re in and the atmosphere in that community. This is a step in the right direction for creating safer communities.”**

**Ron Stoddart, shop owner and Safe Haven**

**“Together we can build the types of communities we all want to live in.”**

**Barry Mizen MBE**



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