

RESPECT

Read this short piece of news and then answer the questions below:

A teacher in England is on trial for attacking a teenage student with a metal dumbbell. Peter Harvey, 50, is facing charges of attempted murder for the attack, which took place in July, 2009. The student, who cannot be named for legal reasons, suffered a fractured skull and severe cuts to his face. The boy, then 14, was repeatedly hit on the head with the 3kg weight. He was left unconscious and rushed to hospital. Students who witnessed the attack said Harvey's anger seemed to give him extra power. They told the court that he was screaming, "die, die, die" as he was hitting the youngster. Harvey denies attempted murder but has admitted causing serious bodily harm. The case is a huge talking point among teachers and students in England.

The media reports the boy was a leading troublemaker in the class. He has a long record of disrupting lessons. The court heard the boy received a disciplinary warning nine times last year.

- Do you think being a teacher is easy or difficult?
- Do you feel sorry for Mr Harvey or the student?
- What kind of behaviour do you see in your classroom?
- What can society do to make students respect their teachers?
- If web cameras were put in classrooms, teachers would teach better classes and students would behave better. What do you think?