

Raise **YOUR** hands.
And say 'no' to shoplifting.



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Creating a Better Ealing

Talking about shoplifting helps to sort out **what it really means** and how it can affect us, not just now, but for the rest of our lives. We might have questions about **the consequences** and how it upsets our friends and families and what it costs everyone. Who do we ask for advice if we know someone has a problem with shoplifting and where can we find help?

We hope that you will **take time to read through this leaflet** and share your thoughts with friends, teachers and family members.





Raise **YOUR** hands.

Say 'no' to shoplifting. Shoplifting is stealing.

Why do people shoplift?

- Maybe friends put **pressure** on, dare someone to do it.
- People might want to seem **cool** to their friends.
- Because people want things but can't afford them.
- Some may do it to **challenge authority** or to be different.
- Others do it as a way to get **attention** from parents or friends.

Stores have to add the cost of shoplifting to their prices so everyone has to pay more for the things they need.

What happens to people who shoplift?

Getting caught shoplifting can be a lot more serious than people may think. Some of the things that can happen to shoplifters are:

- They may be **arrested** and paraded through a store in **handcuffs**.
- They may face **charges** for **theft**.
- They may be **banned** from stores or malls.
- They may end up with a **criminal record**. This can make it harder to get a job, get into college, or do the other things they want to in life.
- It can cost the person **self-respect** or the **respect** of others. Sometimes people lose friends or partners who decide they don't want to be close to someone who steals.



Support.

Helping a friend or relative who shoplifts

It can be hard to start a conversation about topics like shoplifting.

- Try saying that you're concerned, and that you don't want your friend or family member to get into trouble. Lots of people simply don't know how **serious** the **penalties** for shoplifting can be.
- If you think it's wrong to take things without paying for them, say so. You can put your own point of view without giving a lecture or putting the person down or being judgemental. Simply say what you believe, such as: 'I don't think it's right to take things without paying'. Sometimes it takes **courage** to speak up like this. But saying nothing can send out the message that you're OK with the behaviour.
- If you feel you can't talk to the person yourself or you're worried that the problem is too big to tackle alone, have a chat with **someone you trust** – a parent or carer or another adult you trust. Perhaps there is someone at school who can help.

If a friend tries to get you to shoplift – or to distract someone so he or she can shoplift – **you can say no**. It takes courage, especially if the other person tries to put you down if you don't go along. But sometimes, we have to be our own best friends and put our needs first. If your friend won't stop shoplifting, avoid shopping together. If your friend is caught, you may be under suspicion, too.

Respect

If you've shopped before, think about how you felt afterward:

- Would you want the people you **respect** most to know?
- Part of **growing up** is becoming aware of how we feel, what we think, and what **values** are important to us. Learning from past mistakes is a way to do that.
- It's **never too late to change** things we don't like, or to act in ways that help us to **be the person we want to be**.

