

## GFS Case studies

1. My name is Debbie and I'm in year 3. They put me in the bottom reading group and the teacher is always asking my mummy to come in and talk to her. I'm trying to be good but school is really hard. My teacher says I have to see a lady who will help me do my work better but she can't see me because she's so busy she just sees the big boys and girls in year 7 before they have to go to big school. I wish I could go in the good reading group with my friend Peter.
2. I'm Claire and I'm four and a half. I'm going to go to school soon but I'm scared in case the other children laugh at me because I only have one hand. My mummy took me to the doctors and he sent us to the hospital to get a plastic hand but the people in the hospital said they only make plastic hands for big people. My mummy told them they have to give me one too so they gave me a big giant hand like a mummy's size. It looks really silly. All the big people have a plastic hand that matches their real hand. All the children are going to make fun of me – I don't want to go to school.
3. My name's Frances. Me and my mates go to the youth club every Friday night. It's brilliant – they have loads of things in it and it goes on to 11 at night. My ma says we all have to walk home together to keep safe on our way home. But any time there's trouble anywhere near the estate we always get stopped by the peelers for no reason, and almost every time they're cheeky to us. They wouldn't speak to adults like they do to us.

We haven't even done anything wrong we're just walking home from the club. It's freezing so of course we've got our hoods up. Just because we're young doesn't mean we're a gang or anything. It's so annoying – we might as well just hang about in the streets instead of going to the club if we're going to get in trouble anyway.

4. My name's Hilary and I'm 14. It's just me and my granny in the house. She's not too good at getting about any more but we're doing ok. I taught her how to do internet shopping ... well she tells me what she wants and I get it all up. Its handy getting the big shop delivered. Sometimes we run out of stuff or she needs something extra for the dinner – that's when it's a real pain. There's a wee shop on my way home from school but they don't let kids in wearing school uniforms – like as if you're going to steal anything just because you're at school! So I have to walk the whole way to the supermarket – they don't even want kids there either. They have this stupid mosquito noise thing in the car park. It wrecks your ears. Its so annoying – I'm just trying to look after my granny and get us fed and its a whole hassle.
5. I'm Emmet and I'm 15. I love athletics and train every morning before school. It's a bit dark outside now to train in the evenings so I joined the gym to have a place to train indoors. It's £30 / month which is half of my pocket money but its worth it if I get to train every day after school. Or so I thought but yesterday when I turned up at the gym they told me that under 16s weren't allowed in between 5.00 -7.30 as it's only for

people coming from work. I pay the same as them – how can they tell me I can't use the place when I want?

6. I'm Kelly and I'm 14. A while ago I into a jewellery shop in Victoria Square to buy my mum a bracelet for Christmas that I'd been saving up for. When I asked to look at some of the bracelets the shop staff were really rude. They assumed because of my age that I couldn't actually afford to buy anything in the shop and that I was just messing about. I was told to leave the shop by the security guard and escorted out in front of everyone, which was really embarrassing. It made me really angry that they were treating me like a criminal because of my age, even though I'd done nothing wrong.
7. My name's Rose and I'm 13. I get the bus to school with a few mates. Bus drivers sometimes drive on past the bus stop if there are of lot of us standing at it in school uniform even if there's space on the bus. Sometimes they'll even stop and let others on but not those of us in school uniform when there's still seats. They shouldn't refuse us access just cause we're at school. It's like they think we're going to wreck the bus or something just because we're young.
8. My name is Alan. I'm 15 and I'm studying for my GCSEs. Lately it's been hard to get my school work done. I've been diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder – its really annoying that I can't just get on top on this but I can't do it by myself. The doctor

has said it will be 4 months before I can see the psychiatrist but my friends mum has the same thing and she has an appointment in 6 weeks. Its not fair – I just want this to be sorted out so I can get on with my studies.