

# Headline: 7000 Shoes show shocking statistics

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*Date: Thursday 15 March 2018*

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2018, seven thousand shoes were donated by the families of those who lost their children in shootings that occurred since the massacre at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012 until now. This shocking display highlighted the horrors of gun laws in the US, so pupils from Whitecross School asked members of staff how this made them feel.

One teacher, Mr Beard, who's family live in America feels that guns are necessary he said "Guns are a part of their culture the "right to bear arms" , and unless you are going to change all thirteen amendments then guns are here to stay".

However Mr Tootle understands why guns are allowed, but his personal belief is that "it's absolutely wrong. They should be banned for obvious reasons and it would save lots of lives". He also stated that "unless America takes action on this, they are going to continue to have problems in schools and it will affect your generation"

Miss Smith said that "there is a place for guns but I'm not sure I agree with everyone being allowed a gun. It's fine if they are used for hunting, but why should someone that lives in the city with nothing to do with that need a gun?"

We asked a fellow student how he felt after watching the protest film, he said it made him feel sad and empathise with the families who have lost their children. He was also lost for words as he said it was a "sensitive subject". Other pupils felt that guns shouldn't be permitted at all, however others said it depends on the circumstances that they are in.

In 1996 Australia experienced a mass shooting, back in July 2016, they decided to hold a national gun amnesty where people have to hand in unregistered weapons without getting prosecuted. They estimated 260,000 weapons were handed in. Justice Minister Michael Keenan said the some of the guns handed in were used in previous terrorist attacks. Now Australia has not experienced mass shootings because of the amnesty. Should America follow in Australia's footsteps?

We aimed to raise more awareness on this subject, but who knows what will happen next? Whitecross students feel this debate is going to run and run. It is clear emotions run high.