

Emotional and psychological instability are taking their toll on children who often feel the answer is to not attend school anymore. Psychiatrists say school phobia or separation anxiety can originate from situations at the school, in the home or in related environments. The important thing is to admit the problem and make concerted efforts to solve it.

Q1. Is schooling in Mumbai student-friendly?
Q2. How can parents help children adjust to different

SPEAK OUT



environments without withdrawing the protection offered at home?

Q3. Should counsellors sensitize schools on the need to pay attention to disenchanted students??

SMS

Type **SO** <space> **Q1/Q2/Q3** <space> **YES** or **NO** <space> your views and name. SMS to **58888**

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'Ideally, parents should be role models'

Children living in urban environments are left to themselves for most of the day and have a variety of media through which to choose and follow new-age role models. We asked if parents should guide their children to adopt positive role models and if brand-conscious kids should dictate the buying habits of parents:

It is the parents' duty to guide their children in selecting role models. Bedtime stories on personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Shivaji, Hellen Keller etc inspire young minds positively. If the kids choose any celebrity as their role model, it is okay of the reason is the celebrity's hard work and determination. However, parents should protect their children from falling prey to the glamorous elements of celebrity.

— **Padma Mhatre**

Yes, parents must guide their children towards adopting role models who are honest, hardworking, dedicated and achievers. The role models should inspire children to realize their own potential and

must provide a constant source of inspiration, not just be a temporary attraction. The concept of 'brand' must not be explained to children. There is no inherent difference between products that are branded and ones that are not branded.

— **Vijay Mullaji**

Ideally, parents should be the role models during childhood. They have a huge role to play in shaping their kids. When one is young, it's the right time to talk about moral values, taking up responsibility, and dos and don'ts. Parenting is an art. Rather than asking children to focus merely on studies, parents should enhance self-belief and decision-making capabilities in kids. In the long run, children would not only merely survive, but strive for excellence in whatever they do. When a kid knows how to face adversity, he hardly needs a role model. As a parent, one should inspire their kids. If kids grow up with ample freedom but are willing to take the responsibility, then parents can consider their inputs.

— **Priya**