



Classroom conversation guide

When learners are asked to express their own thoughts and opinions in a group environment, it is vital that everyone feels respected, safe and supported.

We recommend introducing the following rule as a guideline for your classroom. It is a rule that has guided humanity for [over 3000 years](#):

Treat other people in the way you would like to be treated.

You may choose to build on this by establishing a set of shared values.

The following are adapted from The PSHE Association's ground rules. You can use these or create a list of your own.

AS A CLASS, WE AGREE TO BE...

HONEST

We will be open to learning and honest about our opinions.

But if we don't feel like participating in an activity or a question, then we have the right to pass.

KIND

We will not put anybody down or judge their opinions.

We can disagree with people's point of view, but we will only discuss it in a constructive and non-personal way.

CURIOUS

We will ask questions about anything we're not sure about.

If we need help, support or advice we will seek it out – either in school, at home or online.

ACCEPTING

We won't make assumptions about people's values, attitudes, feelings, life experiences or behaviours.

We will accept people's explanations and points of view without prejudice.

RESPECTFUL

If someone else is speaking we will listen to what they have to say.

We will try to use the proper words for what we're discussing instead of slang.

TRUSTWORTHY

We won't speak about what is discussed outside of this safe space.

Our teacher will not repeat what we say in this classroom unless they are concerned about our safety.

ENCOURAGING

If our friends need support, we will help them to find it.

COMPASSIONATE

We will treat each other in the way we would like to be treated.