The Bones of a Mediation Session

The graphic shown is a guide for mediators. It has been emphasised that mediators are not 'mini-teachers' and that all ideas for resolution must be made by those in dispute. They do not give advice. This formal mediation process is suitable for Key Stage 2 pupils but mediators can use their skills with the younger children in a less formal way. Formal mediation will only take place at lunchtimes.



More questions?

If you'd like to look at the 'Peer Mediator's Handbook' please go to:

https://www.broughton-hants.co.uk/young-peacemakers/

For further information on the scheme, please look at the CRESST website:

https://www.cresst.org.uk

The Young Peacemaker's Project

A Guide to Peer Mediation

Broughton Primary School

November 2023

Conflict and Resolution

Conflict is an inescapable and essential part of life. It's important that children are taught how to deal with it in a successful way as an essential life skill for the future. We have used the CRESST scheme to introduce a restorative approach to conflict at Broughton.

What is Peer Mediation?

Peer Mediation is a process where those involved in a disagreement volunteer to discuss the issues and explore how best to take matters forward. Children and young people can be more comfortable talking to someone their own age who understands their concerns and their perspective. Pupils learn to listen to others' points of view and to accept differences.

Mediation is not about deciding who's 'wrong' or 'right', allocating blame or being the font of all knowledge and giving advice. Instead, peer mediators support fellow pupils to work out a way forward which is mutually acceptable to them. There is always an adult nearby when peer mediation takes place. Duty bearers (staff) will continue to deal with situations which are not in the remit of peer mediators.

Mediator Training

Children in Badger's Class received a two-hour session on conflict and resolution and were introduced to the concept of peer mediation. The children were invited to apply for the role of mediator. Following this, they undertook a further 10 hours of training following a proven method of helping other children to solve their conflicts, gain resolution and thereby restore the relationship. Peer Mediation does not take the place of normal consequences when inappropriate behaviour has occurred. Referrals for peer mediation are made by staff who will make these judgements based on the type of conflict involved. The mediators will work in pairs on a rota basis. Pairings will be changed termly.

Why promote peer mediation?



Benefits for pupils

- *All children learn the basic skills of communication and conflict resolution and develop the coping skills that they will need outside and beyond school.*
- *Peer mediators develop additional skills in communication, negotiation, understanding and problem solving. Acting as mediators helps to promote young people's emotional and social skills and builds self-esteem and confidence.*



Benefits for the school

- *Peer mediation can provide a safe structure for children and young people to solve their problems and learn to negotiate.*
- *Peer support can reinforce a positive ethos and sustain pupil motivation.*
- *Peer mediation can build a supportive environment and help to sustain the overall wellbeing within a school.*



Convention on the Rights of the Child

The peer mediation philosophy directly supports the rights of the child and relates to many of the articles in the CRC. All mediations will take place with due consideration of the need for

- *non-discrimination (article 2)*
- *respect for the view of the child (article13)*
- *freedom of expression (article 14)*
- *freedom of association (article 15)*
- *confidentiality (article 16)*