

# PSHE Ground Rules

Ground rules help to minimise inappropriate and unintended disclosures and comments of a negative nature made towards other pupils; whether intentional or not. They are also paramount to effectively managing discussions that might elicit strong opinions from pupils. To be effective, pupils and teachers need to develop ground rules together and then test them in discussion and group activities, amending them as necessary as the year goes by and the lessons change. Each class will therefore have their own set of constantly evolving ground rules that they use in PSHE lessons. The following list shows some examples of ground rules that will reflect those that have been established in each class at Chenies School.

- **Openness:** We will be open and honest, but not discuss directly our own or others' personal/private lives. We will discuss examples but will not use names or descriptions which could identify anyone.
- **Keep the conversation in the room:** We feel safe discussing issues and we know that our teacher will not repeat what is said in the classroom unless they are concerned we are at risk, in which case they will follow the school's safeguarding policy.
- **Non-judgmental approach:** It is okay for us to disagree with another person's point of view but we will not judge, make fun of, or put anybody down. We will 'challenge the opinion, not the person'.
- **Right to pass:** Taking part is important. However, we have the right to pass on answering a question or participating in an activity and we will not put anyone 'on the spot'.
- **Make no assumptions:** We will not make assumptions about people's values, attitudes, behaviours, identity, life experiences or feelings. We will listen to the other person's point of view respectfully and expect to be listened to ourselves.
- **Using appropriate language:** We will use correct terms rather than slang terms, as they can be offensive. If we are not sure what the correct term is, we will ask our teacher.
- **Asking questions:** We are encouraged to ask questions and they are valued by our teacher. However, we do not ask personal questions or anything intended to deliberately try to embarrass someone.
- **Seeking help and advice:** If we need further help or advice, we know how and where to seek it—both in school and in the community. We will encourage friends to seek help if we think they need it.