



# Year 7 Assembly Prejudice and Respect

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024



**Respect – Integrity – Courage – Ambition**



# What does respect look like to you?

**And why is it important?**

Respect is one of our four school values

When we spoke to staff, students and parents last year about what values they thought should sit within our four, respect came up over and over again – everyone values it

So what does it look like in real life? And what makes it so important?



In sport, respect looks like this...

Acknowledging someone's feelings, even when you have won and they have lost; acknowledging the people that have helped you; acknowledging effort and ability at every level (not just professional); respecting other cultures and traditions; allowing people to perform to the best of their ability.

There are lots of examples of respect in sport.

# Respect



- Admiration for someone (or something) because of their abilities, qualities or achievements

*'she was respected by everyone she worked with'*

- Showing regard for the feelings, wishes or rights of others

*'I respected his views'*



These are two definitions of respect.

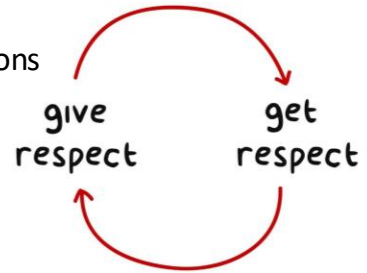
We are going to focus this morning more on the second one.

Discuss the phrase: 'treat others as you expect to be treated'.

# How should we ALL show respect in school?



- Say hello, smile, take an interest
- Say please and thank you
- Listen to each other's views, opinions and questions
- Recognise when someone has done well
- Turn up, on time, dressed appropriately
- Take care of our classrooms and site to ensure they are clean and safe for everyone to use
- Accept one another, **regardless of our differences**



These are basic things that we can all do every day to show respect to others. This applies to both staff and students. When everyone gives respect, it is a never-ending positive cycle. Focus on the bottom point - 'regardless of our differences'.

# What makes us different?



Dream Big  
Be Curious  
Be Determined  
Make No Excuses  
Seize Opportunities



Ask students to consider what makes us different. Watch video.

[Differences // CBeebies on Vimeo](#)

## Do you still see the world like those four-year-olds?



- Sadly, not all our students do
- Last year we had 83 **prejudicial** incidents in school
  - 41% - racist
  - 34% - ableist (against a disability)
  - 25% - homophobic
- This academic year we have already have 8 incidents involving 10 students. There have been incidents in every year group, from Year 7 to 11.

**This has to stop.**

At the age of 4, the differences that matter are the differences between interests (e.g. food, hobbies, where you live) but they don't stop them from being friends – they are proud of their differences.

Sadly, this seems to change as people get older

We always look at the individual circumstances surrounding an incident, but most of these incidents in school resulted in the student being suspended. We work hard to educate you about prejudicial language in school and so we don't expect you to use it. If you do, the sanction is the most serious we can give because that's how seriously we take it.

Alongside the sanction, all students also receive 1:1 education on the impact of their words and all students involved in the incident are asked if they would like a restorative conversation (this is always optional).

Thankfully, very few of our students repeat the behaviour again, but it should never have happened in the first place.

# Prejudice



- ‘An unfair and judgmental opinion or feeling towards individuals or specific groups of people’
- It is never ‘just a joke’ or ‘banter’
- It isn’t just ‘being horrible to one another’ – it is much bigger than that, and has a far bigger impact



Explain the word 'prejudicial' and give the definition of prejudice

Reference the results of students' recent vocabulary tests - very few students were able to accurately define 'prejudice' – many thought it was just a word, or just being unkind – it's important to understand that it is so much more than that.

Go through protected characteristics – what they are, what it means in law for them to be protected and why they are protected.



## What impact is it having?



Dream Big  
Be Curious  
Be Determined  
Make No Excuses  
Embrace Opportunities

"It really hurts. It feels like someone is picking on you for what makes you individual"

"It is painful. Being treated differently for my skin colour, which I can't change, hurts. Racism is never a joke. We all deserve respect, no matter what we look like or where we come from"

"It made me angry and made me question things about myself and my religion"

"It made me feel sad and depressed at home and at school. It made me not enjoy school and anxious to come in"

"It makes me feel uncomfortable and disrespected. It impacts me and puts me down"

"It made me feel upset – there is nothing I can do to change it (my disability)"

"It has made me not want to live anymore"

These are real quotes from students who have been victims of prejudicial incidents in our school.

How does reading/hearing those make you feel? Uncomfortable? Sad? Determined to make a change?

Explain that this behaviour is also impacting parents and families – one small comment has a much wider impact than you realise.

## How can you make sure you are doing the right thing?



Dream Big  
Be Curious  
Be Determined  
Make No Excuses  
Embrace Opportunities

- You must not use a protected characteristic to imply something is negative
- **For example**, using a disability (or a word associated with a disability) to imply someone is stupid, or using the word 'gay' to imply something is wrong or bad
- Do not repeat language or actions you might hear or see in songs or online – the use of racial slurs or words will never be tolerated
- If you are not sure what a word or action means and you do not want to offend anyone, **do not say or do it**. Ask for advice from home or from a member of staff first.

Be clear with expectations of students in school.

## This is what our students all pledged last year...



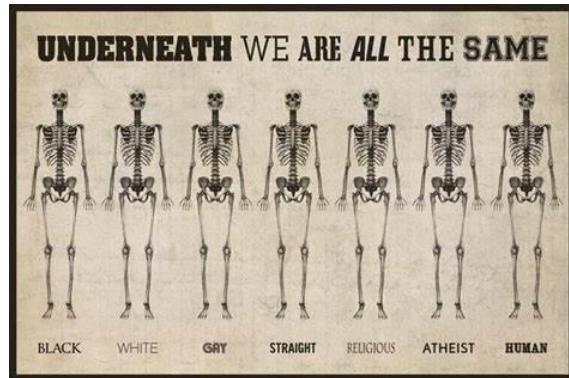
**'I pledge to be part of the solution to end discrimination by celebrating all diversity at Ringwood School'**

This was a pledge set out by the Anti Bullying Ambassadors last year and they asked all our students to sign it. It now hangs proudly on the wall in our canteen. Our students have committed to ending prejudicial incidents and celebrating our differences, but it is going to take all of us to make that a reality.

## Year 7, will you join us?



- Prejudicial language and actions have no place in our school
- If you are concerned about the behaviour of someone in our school **speak up** – this is **safeguarding**, not snitching
- **Everyone** deserves to feel safe, valued and **respected**
- We **all** have a responsibility to make this a reality in our school



Remind students how to report – explain ‘safeguarding, not snitching’ - that we all have a duty to keep each other safe and that has to come above everything else. As much as we should be celebrating our differences, underneath it all, remember we are all the same and we all deserve the same respect.

## Our work does not stop here...



- Literacy tutor time activity – the next word is **prejudice**
- Whole school activities led by our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors on **respect**
- **Wear Red Day** – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – show your support
- An exciting **external speaker** – watch this space...



This is not just a one-off assembly – we are committed to reducing prejudicial incidents and so we will do all we can to keep raising awareness and educating our students.

Go through list on slide.

End by asking students to remember their pledge and to ensure they are each individually doing everything they can to make it a reality.