

CREATING GROUP GROUND RULES

& MANAGING DISCLOSURES

Before undertaking any unit of work, we suggest that time is spent formulating some group Ground rules. Ground rules help to minimise inappropriate and unintended disclosures and comments of a negative nature made towards other students whether intentional or not. Such ground rules support broader class rules and the school's behaviour policy.

To be effective, students and teachers need to develop ground rules together and then test them in discussion and group activities, amending them as necessary.

Sample ground-rules may include:

- We will not ask each other personal questions.
- We have the right to 'pass' if we do not wish to comment.
- We will not discuss private information about money and family finances unless we feel comfortable to do so. (This may need to be adapted for classroom or family learning environments).
- We agree to join in and make a positive contribution.
- We will listen to each other without interrupting.
- We will show respect for each other and each other's' views, even where they are different from our own.
- We agree that it is OK to make mistakes and learn from them.
- We will support each other and encourage those who are less confident than ourselves.

It is important that these are seen as a guide to creating ground rules that are suitable for the class, the age of the pupils and the differing needs of individuals.

You may wish to have a private question box available during the sessions, so that participants can seek answers to questions they do not feel comfortable to ask during the session.

We would recommend having these displayed during sessions so that they can be referred to as and when appropriate.

Despite having ground rules children may make disclosures: it is essential in these cases to always follow the guidance in the schools safeguarding policy.

If any participants would like further advice you can sign post them to:

- www.gov.uk who have sections on benefits and managing debt
- Money Advice Service (0800 138 7777)
- StepChange Debt charity (0800 138 1111)
- www.childline.org.uk