

TALKING ABOUT BULLYING: CLASSROOM DISCUSSION STARTERS

All years: Thinking about the consequences of an action

This discussion starter supports teachers to scaffold a collaborative discussion with students as a whole class or in small groups. The discussion requires about 20 minutes. It can be used as a stand-alone discussion or to conclude one of the other classroom discussion topics if time permits. (Refer to [How to use](#) for more information.)

Outline

1. Present the definition of bullying

Share the definition of bullying with your students. Explain that this is how bullying is generally defined by society; however, in order to fully understand bullying, we need to unpack the ideas.

2. Explore conditional reasoning: thinking about the consequences

Ask students to think about possible consequences of one or more of the following actions, as well as what might follow on from the consequences:

- If I choose to be an inactive/passive bystander, then ...
- If we stand together against bullying and violence, then ...
- If we ignore bullying online, then ...
- If there is a misuse of power within our class community, then ...
- If we develop respectful relationships, then ...

As appropriate and necessary, use any of these additional questions to explore the students' answers:

- Why do you think that? (justification)
- Can anyone build on that idea?
- Does anyone have an alternative suggestion/different possibility?
- Can you clarify that?
- Could there be another way to think about this?
- What might someone say if they disagreed with this?
- What might follow from this?

3. Reflect on thinking and learning

At the conclusion of the activity, take five minutes to reflect on the learning:

- How did we work as a community of learners?
- What new thinking and learning has taken place for our class community today?
- How can we apply this new thinking and learning to our relationships with peers at school and beyond?