

respect each other at school

At school students must work in groups and spend time in classrooms and on the playground mixing with many different people. For this reason, it is important to remember that every student at your school is unique.

You may have some things in common with some students but you will never have everything in common with anybody. The number of ways that people differ is endless.

For example, not everyone:

- follows the same religion
- looks the same
- speaks the same
- enjoys the same movies
- dresses the same
- likes the same food
- is good at sport
- is good at school work
- adopts the same cultural principles

➤ **What are some of your unique qualities?**

➤ **List five ways that students are different.**

Considering that everyone is so different, it might be hard for all students to get on well with each other. But even if there is something that you do not like about another student, you can still **RESPECT EACH OTHER**. Respecting each other will help you to have a successful school environment.

➤ **What are some good reasons to foster an atmosphere of respecting each other at your school?**

Respecting other people can be hard, but when you remember that everyone is different, it can be easier. Respect requires appreciating or **ACCEPTING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES** and not judging people. Another way to respect other students is to think about how another person feels, or **CONSIDER OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS**.

Have you heard the saying "put yourself in someone else's shoes"? This means that you try to know how another person is feeling and how you make them feel. When you do this, it helps you to treat other people the way that you want people to treat you. Try to say things that will make other people feel good, rather than say or do things that will make other people feel unhappy.

➤ **How do you feel when someone gives you a compliment?**

➤ **How do you feel when someone says something bad about you?**

➤ **How do you think other people feel when you compliment them or are unpleasant to them?**

Once you consider other people's feeling and accept individual differences, it might help you to **THINK BEFORE YOU ACT**.

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consider other people's feelings

Sometimes we all do things that we do not mean or know are not very nice. This can happen because we just do something without thinking about it. When you think before you act, it will help you to make better decisions and be more confident about the decision you are making. When you identify that you alone are responsible for your own decisions and actions, particularly as you get older, thinking before you act becomes even more important. As you get older, making informed decisions also becomes more important. Thinking before you act can also help you to have more friends, achieve more, stop you from doing something that you might feel bad about or even prevent you from getting into trouble.

➤ When would it help you to think before you act?

Another part of respecting other people is to make sure that you **DO NOT BULLY**. You probably know that bullying is extremely hurtful behaviour and can get you into serious trouble. Did you know that harassment and bullying at work is illegal and people have been fined significant amounts of money and jailed for this behaviour? There is also a good chance that if you bully someone that you will get bullied back and end up with less friends. Remember, the more friendly you are, the better your chance of having more friends.

If you think or feel that someone is bullying you, you should immediately speak to your teacher.

If someone is bullying you or your friends you can:

- Ignore them
- Ask their friends to stop them
- Tell your parent
- Tell them that they are not being very nice
- Tell a teacher
- Do not tease or bully them back

➤ What else could you do if someone is bullying you?

➤ If someone is a bully what could they do to help stop it?

Respecting each other, accepting that everyone is different and thinking before you act all help to make sure that you do not bully.

Remember that respecting other people at school is one of the most important things you can do to help you feel good about yourself, keep friends and contribute to your school being a fun and enjoyable place to be.

➤ What other things could you do to help you respect each other at school?

➤ How else does respecting each other at school help you?