



Current Affairs Assembly

KS3 Relationships – Communication

Assembly



Trust

Aim:

- To encourage pupils to consider who they trust and who might trust them

Introduction

Who do you trust?

Who do you trust?

Do you trust what you read in the papers?

Do you trust politicians?

Do you trust the police?

Do you trust the priest at church?

Do you trust sports stars?

Do you trust the celebrities you follow in magazines?

(Pause)

Over the past couple of years there have been numerous examples of celebrities, sportsmen and women, church leaders, police officers and politicians who've cheated, lied and deceived in order to gain some personal advantage or to cover their mistakes. In the past week a national newspaper has been forced to close because some of its journalists and former journalists have been accused of going beyond their normal research and invading the privacy of very vulnerable people, children as well as adults. It makes you wonder who you can trust.



Looking Deeper

Deciding who to trust

We need people that we can trust. There are times when it's hard to carry a worry, a decision, or a sensitive piece of information on our own. We need to be able to share it and maybe to discuss our options. So what do we look for in a trusted friend?

Confidentiality would be a good place to start. Whatever we share with our friends we'd like it to stay with them. We'd like to be completely open so we can have an honest discussion, perhaps revealing things we are a little embarrassed about, knowing they won't be told elsewhere. Gossip is the most effective way to break down trust.

Honesty is also important because polite responses that avoid the real issue are of little value in helping us move on. A trusted friend can say what we don't have the courage to think ourselves and enable us to face up to reality. It may also require a lot of patience to do this as we may not initially want to listen to the truth.

Finally I'd suggest that trust is about being available and reliable. It's no good going to someone to then find they put us off because it's not a convenient time. Someone we trust will be there for us whenever and wherever. When they promise to do something we can rely on them to do it. It won't be forgotten or ignored. These are the characteristics I'd look for in someone I'd trust.

What about ourselves? Are we worth trusting? Can we keep confidentiality? Are we honest, and patient enough to let our friends work through the consequences of our honesty? Are we readily available, willing to drop what we're doing if a friend needs us? Do we keep our



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promises? In a world that is full of mistrust at this moment in time, it's important that we help rebuild trust values and learn to live by them.

Reflection

In a time of crisis, who do I turn to?
Do others turn to me in the same way?
How might I become someone who is totally trustworthy?

Prayer

God our father
Thank you that you have given us in Jesus an example of someone who can be totally trusted.
May we be like him and help to build a community in which all members trust and can be trusted.
Amen

Keywords

Trust
media
confidentiality
reliability
honesty
friendship

Thought for the day

Trust holds safe the most sensitive information.

