



Peer Mediation

A form of conflict resolution in which trained student leaders help their peers work together to resolve everyday disputes. Participation in peer mediation is voluntary; the peer mediators deal with low-level disputes and always refer to school staff when a situation becomes too complex for them to handle. Student mediators do not make judgments or offer advice, and they have no power to force decisions upon their peers. Mediation is sensitive to the underlying causes of conflict.

Which Issues Will Be Mediated?

- Social media improprieties
- Relationship difficulties
- Rumour and gossip
- Cheating and stealing
- Name-calling
- Not returning borrowed items Classroom or extracurricular disputes
- Bullying

Often, disputing students who receive disciplinary consequences can in addition benefit from participating in a mediation session if they so choose.

Benefits to peer mediators and disputants:

Young people can be more comfortable talking to someone their own age who understands their concerns and their perspective. Students learn to listen to others' points of view and to accept differences.

Peer mediation can improve self-esteem, listening and critical thinking skills, and support the school climate for learning, as well as reduce disciplinary actions. All students learn the basic skills of communication and conflict resolution, developing the coping skills that they will need outside and beyond school.

Benefits to peer mediators:

Acting as mediators helps to promote young people's emotional and social skills and builds confidence. They learn essential skills (negotiation, understanding and problem-solving) that can be invaluable to their academic and personal success.

Specifically, peer mediation:

- Empowers students with the skills and strategies for dealing with conflict;
- Develops communication and decision-making tools that influence choices in the future and increase leadership potential;
- Helps students gain perspective and understanding of themselves, others and their issues;
- Improves the school climate by building relationships;
- Reduces the alienation, disenfranchisement and powerlessness that many students feel;
- Builds a strong sense of cooperation within the school community in order to address disputes that interfere with learning.