CLASS DISCUSSIONS

Follow a class code of conduct for discussions like:

- We won't laugh at others' opinions or shout each other down.
- We will try to express our opinions in a way that won't hurt anybody else's feelings.
- We will direct challenges to the front of the room and not to each other so that nobody feels attacked.
- We will talk only about our own experiences and we will not tell other people's stories for them or tell stories about others without their permission.
- We will focus our challenges on a person's opinion or contribution, not on the person themselves.
- When making a challenge, we will begin with words like:
  I disagree with your contribution because…
  My view is different because…[1]

To avoid victim blaming:

- Ensure that no child is blamed for their responses or experiences
- Make sure that children aren't encouraged to blame other children or to say what someone could have done differently.
- Focus discussions on how situations or scenarios made the people involved feel.
- Focus on the problem or the issue and instead of passing judgement on how it was dealt with in the past, encourage children to consider what they could do if they were to encounter a similar problem in the future.[2]

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[1] Gabriella Craft, Jennifer Johnson, Michael Chidgey, Rachel Elgy, Sarah Soyei, Kate Hollinshead, *Outside the Box, A whole school approach to promoting gender equality and tackling sexism and sexual harassment.* Equaliteach, p.58-60 https://equaliteach.co.uk/education/classroom-resources/outside-the-box/ (Downloaded 30 March 2021)

[2] Jessica Taylor and Jaimi Shrive, *The Primary School and Home School Guide – Ethical sex and relationships education for young children*, VictimFocus Publications, 2020, p.14