

DONCASTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



Respect Policy

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DEFINITION

The word **RESPECT** means to be mindful, to pay attention to, to show consideration to, to avoid intruding upon and to avoid violating.

Philosophy

Respect is shown when children get recognition for who they are and what they do, when they are allowed to exercise options and make choices within acceptable frameworks, and when their choices are positively acknowledged and accepted.

Doncaster School for the Deaf aims to create an environment of respect for self and for others.

Teaching mutual respect, at its core, refers to character education and to values education. These are areas that may easily differ widely among individuals in any given social group. In a multicultural society, questions immediately arise as to whose values should be taught. One way to address this issue is to promote behaviours that affirm human dignity, protect human rights and advance the good of individuals, as well as behaviours that contribute positively to the common good of our social environments.

Respect is **not** shown by deferential treatment, by fawning over them or by well-intentioned deception. It is often too easy to disrespect children because they are physically small, are often more dependent than most adults, and have less ability than adults to control their needs and wants. They need more explanations, they need more time and their behaviours are childish simply because they are children, not yet capable of conforming to adult standards. Nor should we expect them to.

Respect is a behaviour which cannot be taught verbally. It can only be taught by example. We must not wait for them to show us respect before we respect them. To gain respect we must give respect. Respect is a two-way process.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY

- To ensure the full development of the child's personality and the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- To respect the diversity of children & young people's backgrounds and abilities and to accommodate the individual needs of each child.
- To communicate effectively with each other and display professionalism, teamwork and mutual respect.
- To create a responsive and inclusive atmosphere and relate to children in a warm and friendly manner.

All adult members of the school community **show respect** for children when we:

- Allow a child to complete what they are saying, uninterrupted.
- Allow children to make mistakes.
- Allow, and encourage, **civil** disagreement.
- Allow transition time from one activity to another.
- Know how to say no, be willing to say no and stick to it.

All adult members of the school community **are disrespectful** to children when we:

- Do not take children's opinions seriously or make light of them.
- Use angry words under stress and, in particular, direct angry words toward them.
- Finish children's tasks for them, rather than giving encouragement or directions and allowing them time to finish tasks for themselves.
- Answer questions for them.
- Shout, or use sarcasm.
- Rush them or push them in to a corner
- Do not take care of our own physical or emotional needs

Approved

The Respect Policy was approved by the Governing Body.

This policy is will be subject to review as a part of the school's Self-Evaluation and Self-Review cycle