

Your journey towards rights-based practice

Dignity Self-Assessment Tool



It can be difficult to know where to start when you're embarking on your journey towards rights-based practice.

As part of our Dignity in School project we developed a simple self-assessment tool that can be used with both adults and children in school to help you find your focus.

The tool involves two questionnaires, one for adults and one for children. Questions are based around three core areas for rights-based practice:

Relationships

How people relate to each other in school

Teaching and learning

How choice and participation can become part of learning

Policy and Planning

How children can help shape the school

1

Read the support notes

2

Gather questionnaire results

3

Explore your findings

4

Choose what you want to change

5

Set up a team of children and adults

6

Problem-solve together

7

Share your practice



Gathering Results: Children

Work in small groups

We found groups of 2-4 worked best. Give each child space and time to respond and engage with the task

Mix it up

Try to work with children you don't normally teach, they may open up more if they're not worried about what you'll think.

Engage all children

Make sure you speak to a wide range of children. Try to avoid relying on the same children you usually consult with. We worked with everyone in P5-7

Listen

Remember that all responses are valid and important. Keep an open-mind, avoid judgement and try not to qualify or correct children.

'I want to have a voice'

- Pupil at Stonewood

Keep notes

Try to capture quotes from children in their own words. This will help you understand their responses better.

Tell them why it matters

Make sure children know what they're doing and how it will make a difference to the school.

Feedback

Let the children know how you're using the information they gave you and what will happen next



Gathering Results: Adults

Engage ALL Adults

Include every adult in school, not just teaching staff. All adults are duty bearers when it comes to children's rights

Provide Information

Hold an input for staff to let them know what you are doing, why you're doing it and how their contribution will make a difference.

Ensure Anonymity

Ask for roles, not names. This will allow you to establish patterns amongst staff while ensuring anonymity.

Encourage Honesty

The questionnaires only work if adults are honest. Make sure adults know the questions are a safe space to share their opinions



[Download our Children's Questionnaire](#)

Click on the white download button!

[Download our Adults's Questionnaire](#)



Exploring your findings

Once you've completed your questionnaires with staff and pupils you will be left with a lot of raw data and a lot of quotes. We recommend sorting your responses and ranking the statements in order so you can see which were your areas of strength and which areas you need more support in. You can match up your children's quotes with the statements to get a fuller picture of what is happening in your school.



Below we have provided a downloadable template which will help you sort your responses.



[Download our template spreadsheet to sort your results here](#)

What next?

'We all have ideas and they're different and we can bring them together and make it better.'

Pupil - St John's RC Primary School

Once you've explored your findings you should have a good idea of the areas of strength in your school and the areas that maybe need a little bit more support. What you choose to do next will depend on those areas you want to focus on. We would recommend that you look at the following steps:

- Set up a group of adults and children to problem solve together
- Feedback to everyone who took part letting them know your next steps
- Explore the Dignity in School Hub for inspiration and resources that might support your next steps