



## DO YOU THINK AND FEEL WHAT I DO?

YEARS 7-9

### Aim

Students consider aspects of the school that make it a safe place.

### Description

We all have different perceptions about our school providing a safe place to learn and develop. Our perceptions are often different from others' due to our personal experiences and background. What does a safe school look and feel like to you?

### Resources

Survey sheets (or set up a survey online in Survey Monkey). The text of the survey is below.)

### Activity steps

- 1 Break students into groups of four. Assign each group a role that the school plays in their lives:
  - academic
  - wellbeing and safety
  - personal, social and emotional.

Allow 5 minutes for students to add as many ideas to their lists as possible.
- 2 Join up groups with the same role and have students identify three ideas in common and three very different ideas.
- 3 Have groups share back with the whole class. Discuss the idea that each of us has a different belief or perception based on our experiences.
- 4 Collect some data from the class to look at differing opinions and values. Have students complete the survey (below) on their own.
- 5 Have students help to collate all of the data.
- 6 Have students identify the similarities and differences. Allow students time to discuss possible reasons for the differing ideas.
- 7 Have students work with a partner to select an issue that is of concern to them.



- 8 Have students provide ideas on what suggestions or improvements could be made. Have them think of two possible strategies that could help. Who could students inform at the school to assist? How could they help the school to work towards improving this issue? How would they know that there is improvement? How could they share this with others?
- 9 Allow an opportunity for a small group to present their findings in a school forum
- 10 Ask students, individually, to identify the most significant issue for themselves. Ask them to think of a goal that would allow them to work on improving this.
- 11 Ask students to add ideas that might help them address this. They can add the name of someone who could help them. Ask them to consider how they will know when they have reached their goal or are on the way to reaching their goal? They could try to add a timeline or dates for achieving their goal.

## Student survey

Tick the box that indicates how you feel at the moment about school.

- I feel safe at school
- The teachers listen to me and try to help me if I feel unsafe.
- I know what to do if my friends or I am bullied at school.
- I feel like I belong at this school.
- I feel my teachers help me in any way they can.
- My teachers care about me as a person.
- My teachers help me find my strengths.
- The school work is often interesting and challenging.
- The school has clear guidelines for behaviour.
- My school has enough space and resources for everyone at break times.
- I have opportunities to work with different year levels of students.
- The school promotes respect and kindness between students.
- Staying safe online is a key focus at my school.

# STUDENT SURVEY

## Part 1

Bullying is when one student (or a group) keeps picking on another student again and again to upset or hurt them. They might hurt them physically, try to socially isolate them or say and do many mean or humiliating things to them.

Although it's neither respectful nor acceptable if someone behaves in a mean or aggressive way on one occasion, a single event isn't bullying.

A fight or disagreement between students of equal power or status isn't bullying either.

Tick the box that best describes what you think about your school.

Survey statement	Very true	Somewhat true	Not true
1. I feel safe from being bullied in this school.			
2. The teachers at this school take bullying seriously and they try to stop it if it does happen.			
3. I know what to do and I know teachers who I can speak to if I am bullied or if I see another person being bullied.			

## Part 2

Survey statement	Very true	Somewhat true	Not true
1. I feel very connected to my school. I really feel that I belong here and am accepted.			
2. I feel respected by my teachers.			
3. I have good relationships with my teachers. They know me quite well and care about my wellbeing.			
4. My teachers focus on my strengths and help me to find out what I am best at.			
5. The teachers in this school make our classwork fun, interesting and challenging.			



## Part 3

Survey statement	Very true	Somewhat true	Not true
1. Teachers here show their appreciation to students when they see them behave positively and respectfully towards others.			
2. Our school grounds have enough space, activities and equipment for everyone to enjoy themselves and feel safe during class breaks.			
3. I have chances in this school to support or work with younger students.			
4. I have opportunities to take part in decision-making about what happens in this school.			
5. This school encourages us to treat each other with respect and kindness and to take care of each other, and most of us do that.			
6. I have learned a lot at school about how to stay safe online.			

