

Questions in our minds

Giving our own views

Should we express their own views when asked by a pupil about topics on which society is divided?

Avoiding indoctrination

How can we avoid the accusation that we are engaged in indoctrination rather than education?

Dealing with extremist views

What should we do when pupils express views that are racist, sexist or homophobic?

Anger and distress

How should we react when pupils are angered, offended, threatened or distressed by opinions expressed by others?

Avoiding premature agreement

What should we do when consensus amongst pupils seems to have been reached without due reflection and discussion?

Balancing of rights

How do we balance a) the right to freedom of speech, b) the need for pupils to learn through thinking aloud and c) the need for pupils not to be distressed or intimidated by what other pupils say?

Keeping discussion lively

How do we prevent discussions becoming apathetic and listless?

Responsibilities to parents

How do we respond to the fact that pupils' parents read between them a range of different daily newspapers, and vote for a range of different political parties?

Disagreements at home

Where does our professional responsibility lie when we are aware there are disagreements between a pupil and his or her parents or family?

Dealing with abuse

How should we respond when a pupil is openly abusive towards another?

Our own ignorance

How do we deal with our own feelings of ignorance or inadequate knowledge, and with anxieties we may have about provoking concern and criticism amongst parents?
