

Top Tips for Dealing with Emotive Subjects

- ↳ Never close down a child that is sharing their story with you or the group. If it's not appropriate or timing does not allow; thank the child for sharing with you and arrange an appropriate time or channel for them seek advice
- ↳ Be honest but stay professional, share your own experiences but don't become too personal
- ↳ Set ground rules at the start of the session. How do you want them to behave? What is acceptable?
- ↳ Encourage young people to share their ideas but don't allow bullying in the session. Model appropriate ways to disagree with what somebody is saying in a respectful way
- ↳ Try to focus on the positive side of things - look for the good that comes out of bad situations. Focus on how they can learn from them
- ↳ Never blame or put down a young person, even if they have done bad things in the past the important thing is letting them know anyone can turn things around. We don't want them to give up if they have made bad decisions
- ↳ Ensure at the end of the session the young people know where they can access advice, help and support in the future.
- ↳ Remember the rules of safeguarding, never promise a young person you will keep a secret always pass on any information disclosed to you. If you stay quiet you won't help anybody.
- ↳ Keep up to date, use recent examples. Include facts and figures, local news and media. Don't be afraid to use social media as examples as this infiltrates every aspect of a young person's life.
- ↳ If you don't know an answer to a question be honest, suggest where to find the information. Don't try to make something up.



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