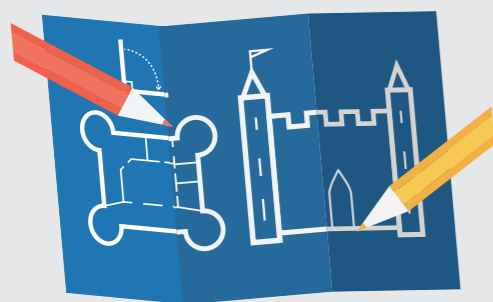


APPLYING THE 'CONSENT CASTLE' TO DISCUSSION AND DEBATE IN THE CLASSROOM

IT CAN HELP TO COMPARE BUILDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR DISCUSSION TO BUILDING A CASTLE

BEFORE WE START: In the beginning careful thought and consideration are vital.



Think about the setting

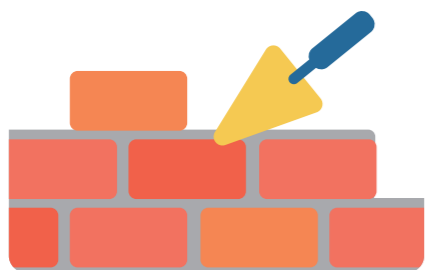
Everyone's different – we've all got our own views and experiences

Some topics are controversial or complicated

Some topics are easier to discuss

We may feel close to some people in the class, but not others

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS: Understanding grows and you can work together without as much need to keep checking in.



Be sensitive when sharing thoughts and ideas

Remember, not everyone will think the same way

If you disagree or don't understand, ask questions and see if you can find common ground

Ask questions and try to learn from each other

Everyone should have the right and opportunity to speak

Listen carefully to each other

No one should be forced to contribute

OVER TIME: It's a continual process and you need to stay aware, especially if a new subject is being broached.



As people feel relaxed and comfortable you can explore challenging topics and ideas

Continue to behave in a safe and respectful way

Remember that it's always possible for something to go wrong

Don't panic or get defensive

Take the opportunity to learn what went wrong and what needs to happen differently next time

Talking about sex and relationships is important and can help us all to better understand ourselves, each other, and the world around us, but we need to be sensitive and respectful when sharing our ideas and experiences.

Listen to each other and participate with in the spirit of genuinely wanting to learn!