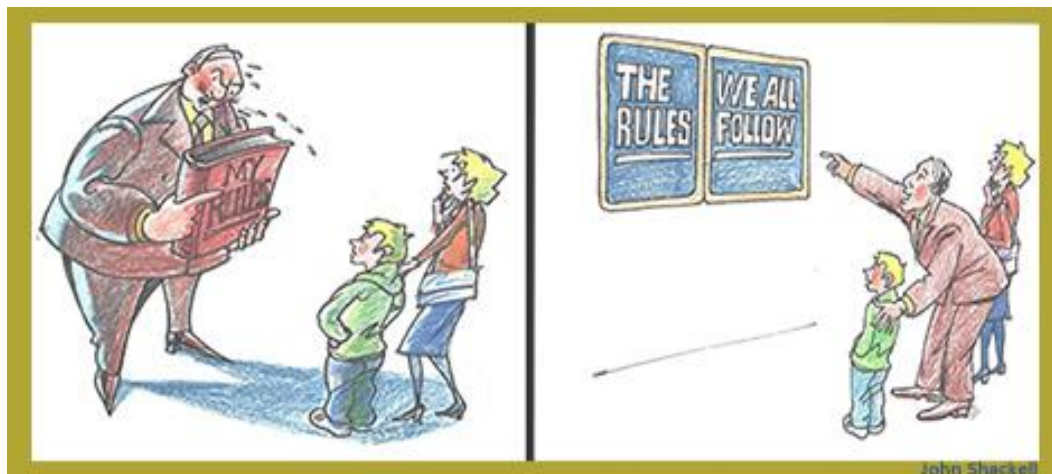


The Rules We All Follow – Discussion activity



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The Rules We All Follow – Discussion activity

Discussion questions for use in a group setting. This plan can be edited to suit your school context. The examples rules used can be replaced by the most relevant ones for your setting.

I haven't included the various obvious steps you may take in the course of the discussion such as recording children's contributions on the board, making lists of ideas, and so on.

Objectives:

- to explore children's understanding of rules
- to help children understand that both adults and children need to 'keep the code'
- to show that rules apply to everyone for everyone's benefit.
- to make the connection between rules and self-control.

Additional resources

A copy of your school's staff dress code

A copy of your school's chewing gum rule

The Rules We All Follow – Discussion activity

Questions

There are two pictures here I want you to look at and think about. We're going to try and understand what the cartoon is really all about.

Will somebody tell me what is happening in the left-hand picture?

Will somebody tell me what is happening in the right-hand picture?

Why do we have rules?

Who makes the rules?

This is a very complicated question! The key message is not by the teacher in front of you!

Rules are devised by governors and senior leaders. However, many rules are imposed on schools for instance by the Health and Safety Executive.

The objective is to help children see that rules don't belong to any one person – they are part of the way people have learned to live together in harmony.

Who can tell me one of our school rules?

Who does this apply to?

It may not occur to the children that, generally, rules apply to adults and children. For instance, teachers are not permitted to chew gum, run in the corridors, kick people, swear, shout out when others are talking, etc. This is the time to point this out

Why do we have that rule?

Will someone tell me another rule? (and repeat).

Let's look at the rule about school uniform (If your school is non-uniform, then select an alternative rule).

What does the rule say about uniforms for children?

At this point show children your school's staff dress code. Read it (quick summary)

Did you know that teacher's had rules about clothing? Do you think that's fair?

Let's look at the rule about chewing gum. Teacher's can't chew gum either, by the way.

Who knows what it says?

The Rules We All Follow – Discussion activity

Read it out if necessary. The rule will say something like if a child is chewing gum this is the sanction.

This rule says two things – it says you can't chew gum, and it says if you do chew gum I have to give you 'this sanction'. If I don't I am breaking the rules to.

What happens if a teacher breaks the rules?

Who makes us keep the rules?

The children will almost inevitably refer to adults. The answer you want them to find is – we make ourselves keep the rules. This is called self-control.

In what ways do you already have self-control?

This is a very open-ended question. There are many examples, such as controlling our bodily functions, road safety, and the many school rules the children have already learned such as sitting in the correct seat.. Road safety is a good example. Children keep to the green cross code because they don't want to get run over. Rules are there for a reason.

Are all the rules written down somewhere?

Children will probably say 'yes of course' – but we know that is not quite true. Some are written in school policies, some (such as 'now wash your hands') are probably only written down where they are relevant, and some are not written down at all ('don't eat with your mouth open')

Closing summary

- Both adults and children need to 'keep the code'
- Rules apply to everyone for everyone's benefit.
- When we understand why the rule is necessary it helps us to learn self-control.

Final question: Who thinks they will find it easier to keep the school rules now?

Please send feedback by using the comments option at

<https://www.narrative.org.uk/resources/my-rules-or-rules-we-all-follow>