

Section 4

Group work



Group work is the core of the Image in Action's SRE programme. Our experience is that pupils benefit from the active group work methods and approaches we have developed. Some pupils who have been classified as more challenging have participated very effectively after a settling-in period. They enjoy the interactive methods and opportunities to develop friendships that the group offers.

Working with pupils as a group has many benefits. It enables practice of skills and provides a forum to experience relationships. A small group (8–12) is a very different experience from being in a class of 30.

Some elements of group work

- a meeting place which is secure and respected by others: not shared or interrupted
- a consistent group: both pupils and staff
- a routine 'ritual' format, known and familiar to all.

It aims to:

- ensure that all pupils and staff participate and interact with one another through turn taking, doing, listening and watching
- value all group members and their contributions by listening, praising and rewarding
- create a safe atmosphere by using a 'ritual' format, ground rules, having clear boundaries, and respecting confidentiality
- make the sessions fun: a useful aim is that everyone should laugh during the session
- use mistakes as learning experiences
- use peer learning
- work to the group's needs: allow them to tell you what they know and need to know.

We need a group so that we can:

- practise skills
- learn by observation, trial and error (i.e. experience)
- build relationships: we can't learn how to make relationships without practice, and the group offers a forum in which it can take place

My relationships and my future

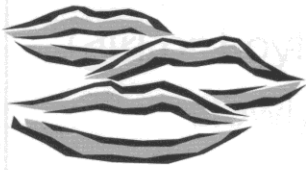
Tick off the ones you think you might like.

- Have a girlfriend
- Have a boyfriend
- Have children – be a Dad
- Have children – be a Mum
- Be single
- Have lots of friends
- Have a few good friends
- Be on my own without close relationships
- Be an uncle
- Be an aunty
- Look after members of my family
- Be independent
- Live with friends
- Live on my own
- Live with my family
- Get married

Are there any here that you could not do (e.g. can a woman be an uncle?)

VESTS

Using **VESTS** will help you make friends.



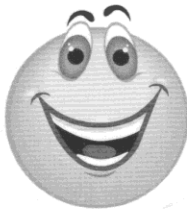
Voice

Use an interesting voice



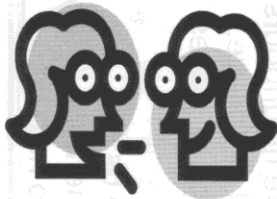
Eye contact

Look at the person's face and eyes



Smile

Smiling is friendly and shows you like the person



Topics and Share the Talking

Talk about different things and find out if you have things in common

Give the other person a chance to talk, ask a few questions and listen