

# Lesson 1

# Pupils Securing their Space



To create a space where pupils can acknowledge the individual and unique qualities they bring to the classroom and to agree some 'grounding principles' that will help everyone work together as best they can

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Begin to understand the core principles and values which contribute to creating a safe space to work in

Learn to create a group contract for working together

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### Playdoh

*(preferably 1 small tub for each pupil)*

**A table or space to work**  
*(on the floor will do)*

**Flipchart paper**

**Markers - different colour for each group** *(N.B. this means the teacher can track groups and their deliberations)*

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**Activity 1:** 20 – 30 minutes

**Activity 2:** 20 – 30 minutes

### Links to Pupil Learning Framework

#### Cultivating Skills and Values to acquire:

- Emotional Literacy
- Metacognition
- A Growth Mindset: attitudes and dispositions



# Activity 1

## Part A

- Give each pupil a tub of Playdoh
- Ask them to mould the Playdoh in any way they wish, noticing the texture, smell and any sounds it might make
- Ask them to mould their Playdoh into the shape of a person
- Explain that as they continue to mould, they should think of a time when they felt proud of themselves

### Discussion Prompts:

- How did it feel? What emotion did they experience at the time?
- Pinpoint one of the qualities that they felt proud of – provide some examples (e.g. strength to finish something, courage to speak out, willingness to learn something new, creativity to design something, empathy to help someone in need etc.)

*\* Reassure them that they do not have to share this with the wider group. They only have to reflect quietly*

- Invite them to reflect on a unique quality that they bring to the class-something positive!
- Explain that their class is made up of many qualities and traits and that sometimes this diversity of character can cause the class to have differing views, but that it is important that everyone treats one another with respect
- Ask them to share some of these qualities with each other in pairs

## Part B

- Invite pupils to remould the Playdoh in any way they wish, noticing the texture, smell and any sounds it might make
- Ask them to mould any object or shape of their own choice
- As they continue to mould, explain that throughout the next number of weeks or months they will be:
  - working together
  - learning together and
  - creating together
- Explain that it is important to create a space where everyone feels valued and safe
- Explain that such a space can only be created if everyone is willing to work on and agree some grounding principles
- Ask them to think about grounding principles as the 3 Rs: Respect! Responsibility! Real Good Time!

### Discussion Prompts:

- What is respect and how can it be put into practice in the classroom?
- What is responsibility? In what ways should we act responsibly in the classroom?
- How can we make sure we all have a real good time as we work and learn together as a class?
- Can you think of any other important grounding principles we might add to the 3 Rs?
- Record some of the examples on flipchart paper and agree a class contract
- Explain that their class contract will be displayed on the wall, and will be referred to for on-going discussion, debate and dialogue

## Activity 2

- Once again, invite pupils to remould the Playdoh in any way they wish, noticing the texture, smell and any sounds it might make
- Ask them to shape their playdoh into a sculpture that represents one of the grounding principles they are most interested in
- Ask them to talk in pairs about their individual sculptures
- Invite the class as a whole, to agree on one big sculptural shape they could mould as a class symbol
- When the class has agreed on one, ask them to remould their individual sculptures and join them together to create the symbol for the class
- Once the symbol has been created, check that everyone is happy with it
- Explain that it can be revisited at any time and changed accordingly
- To finish securing the space, ask each pupil to put their thumbprint gently on to the symbol-adding their own unique mark to it

**To secure the symbol,  
bake in the oven for  
20-25 minutes at a  
low temperature**