

# Helping your child to develop socially



As parents and teachers, we know that friendships develop and change as we get older; sometimes as a result of changes we are aware of and sometimes due to issues beyond our understanding.

How do we as teachers and parents help children as they navigate their way through junior school, interacting with lots of different children to learn and practise being a good friend?

At school, we...	At home, you can help by...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Deliver planned and progressive PSHE units of work to encourage pupils to develop the skills of friendships and to understand the associated feelings in different relationships;</li> <li>✓ Model high standards of respectful behaviour and maintain these in a fair and consistent behaviour policy;</li> <li>✓ Help children to navigate their own moral compass through planned and incidental discussions;</li> <li>✓ Provide opportunities for the children to develop friendships through a balance of adult / peer choice activities;</li> <li>✓ Observe pupils in structured and free choice activities, reporting back to parents each half term;</li> <li>✓ Correct poor behaviour, helping the children to understand the impact that poor behaviour has upon themselves and others;</li> <li>✓ Mediate between children to help resolve conflict;</li> <li>✓ Provide a wide range of extra-curricular clubs to encourage like-minded individuals to develop their interests together;</li> <li>✓ Provide informal and formal support to children and their families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Modelling effective friendship skills through your own relationships;</li> <li>✓ Encouraging play dates and social activities with a range of different children;</li> <li>✓ Limiting screening / gaming time, understanding the negative impacts this has on socialisation and articulacy;</li> <li>✓ Observing your child in play / social situations when they know (and don't know) you are watching;</li> <li>✓ Correcting your child's poor behaviour, explaining why that behaviour is unacceptable;</li> <li>✓ Reaffirming your child's good behaviour, explaining why that behaviour is kind / caring / something to be proud of;</li> <li>✓ Encouraging skills of tolerance and empathy when another's behaviour is lacking;</li> <li>✓ Playing devil's advocate (helping your child identify another's viewpoint) when they experience friendship issues;</li> <li>✓ Reading widely with your child, discussing fictional characters' behaviour to identify positive / negative behaviours and the impact of these;</li> <li>✓ Understanding the rights and responsibilities of your child in building their own healthy relationships.</li> </ul>