



Resolving Conflicts

Aims:

To understand the importance of addressing conflict before it escalates.

Preparation and materials:

- Entry music: I Predict a Riot, Kaiser Chiefs
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkn3TJ1XLnl> [available 05/20] (Martin Luther King Jr – Life and Death).

Assembly:

1. Show the word 'conflict.' What is conflict? What causes conflict at home or at school? Do you find conflict easy to deal with?
2. Ask two students to act out a scenario where two people are having a disagreement that escalates and gets worse after starting with a comment in the corridor. What were the stages of the conflict? How did things escalate? Explore the conflict escalator CAPS acronym on a PP. Do you relate to this?
3. Ask students to consider incidents of conflict in society. Show them some current images on a PP. This could be from international conflicts and war to knife crime in the UK or gun crime in the US.
 - Can you think of any examples in the news around issues of conflict?
 - What has happened for this issue to escalate in this way?
 - Has there been an attempt for anyone to deescalate the problem in this scenario? If so, how?
 - Can you think of any examples (well known or known to you) where someone has managed to de-escalate a difficult situation? If so, how?
4. Read the story of Martin Luther King Jnr (MLK) and his role in the civil rights movement in the US. Further information about MLK can be found in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkn3TJ1XLnl> [available 05/20] (Martin Luther King Jr – Life and Death).
 - In what ways did MLK engage in conflict?
 - Was peaceful protest against backdrop of violence against people of colour effective?
 - Would retaliation with violence have helped the situation?
 - What challenges was MLK up against in attempting to change society in this way?
 - What virtues did he use as he stood up to injustice and racism?

Reflection:

Think about a recent conflict that you have been involved in. What behaviours made the conflict worse? What behaviours helped resolve the conflict?





Challenge:

This week, notice when you are feeling annoyed or upset with someone. Can you address it with them straight away?

