Nielsen Consultants

We are very experienced mediators who work in many fields including family, workplace and homeless disputes. We believe that by empowering young people to be able to speak about their feelings and giving them tools to deal calmly with conflict we are setting a template for the future.

That this meets the requirements of Auchinraith Primary School to foster the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence is beyond question and we are delighted to be given the opportunity to work with these pupils to promote an ethos of positive dispute resolution within the school.

For more information contact
Patricia Nielsen 07966910017
pats@nielsenconsultants.co.uk
alison@familymediationpractice.com

Scottish Mediation Network
www.scottishmediation.org.uk
Relationships Scotland
http://www.relationships-scotland.org.uk
Peer Mediation involves two trained pupils assisting other young people in conflict in the playground through a series of steps so that they can find their own way of resolving their problems.

Difficulties and disagreements are discussed and brought out into the open. Through discussion and exploration comes shared understanding which usually leads to a cooperative and constructive way of managing the conflict.

This empowers all of the young people involved as naming feelings and dealing with high emotions is a life skill which requires to be nurtured from an early stage. The language of mediation is one of peace and optimism which places emphasis on forward thinking.

Peer Mediation training is not an event but a journey for the young people involved. In dealing with the situations which arise on a daily basis within the school, these young people will have opportunities to practise and internalise the conflict resolution skills as taught on the course. Moreover, they will model these techniques and strategies to younger pupils who, it is hoped, will begin to adopt these in their day to day dealings with others.

The ethos in Auchinraith is one of mutual respect and cooperation as is evidenced by our status as a Rights Respecting School. The use of peer mediation to settle disputes in the playground contributes to a peaceful atmosphere where everyone can feel confident that their concerns are being acknowledged and that each individual will be heard.

We spend 2 days training our Peer Mediators in dispute resolution skills as required by the Scottish Mediation Network such as effective listening and open questioning. The pupils are very clear about what kind of disputes they could become involved with and there are named adults within the school to whom they refer any issue which is not appropriate for mediation.

The mediators speak to all of the parties involved in a dispute to gather information and help the disputants to listen to and speak respectfully to one another. Ultimately it is up to the disputants to reach agreement.

There is a robust recording process and time is given on a regular basis for meetings where all of the Peer Mediators can review their experiences and reflect on any learning which has occurred for them.