Our Code | Our Standards

Discussion kit for teacher-led conversations with learners about the Code of Professional Responsibility

EDUCATION COUNCIL
NEW ZEALAND | Matatū Aotearoa

INTRODUCTION

This kit is to support you to facilitate a discussion with groups of your learners about the draft Code of Professional Responsibility, and to seek their feedback as part of our consultation process.

We all understand that teachers have a strong influence on learners; on their wellbeing, their understanding of the world and their future. Learners have a right to the very best education and to expect their teachers to have high integrity and professionalism. Having a common understanding of these expectations is what the Code of Professional Responsibility is all about.

We are keen to capture the voice of learners so their views can be fed into our consultation process. We would really appreciate your support to do this. Because you already have established relationships with your learners, you are best placed to lead these discussions. This kit offers some tools to assist you in these conversations, which you can choose to use if you wish.

It also allows you to frame the draft Code using your own messaging about ethical practice and in a way that reflects the context of your school and community. The intention is not to generate discussions about the behaviour of individual teachers, rather, to lift the conversation to the big picture and seek their views about general expectations of ethical practice for the teaching profession.

SUGGESTED FORMAT

We have developed a Prezi presentation for you to use to structure your discussion. You can choose whether to use this or not and adapt it in any way to wish. The presentation can be played, forwarded, rewound, replayed or paused to suit the pace of your group. It provides a general structure for a 20 minute discussion. At the end, learners should be ready to complete the online learner survey.

SUGGESTED FORUM

This is likely to be most suitable for learners between years 7 to 13. It is up to you to choose the most suitable forum. You could use your student council; a social studies, philosophy, health, or general class; or give an open invitation to anyone who is interested in participating. It may also be used to add value to existing work you are doing, such as examining school values or expectations of behaviour.

It is important for you to lead and to manage the engagement with your learners on the draft code. For this reason we advise that you don't simply encourage learners to complete the survey without first providing the context.

THE BIG PICTURE

Please emphasise to your learners that we are seeking their views about the 'big picture' of teaching to avoid the discussion focusing on their experiences with particular teachers.

CAPTURING THEIR FEEDBACK

The simplest way for learners to provide their feedback is by completing the online learner survey. The survey should take only about 3-5 minutes. They can complete this individually or as a group. All feedback we receive on the draft Code will be considered and will help shape the final version so it is ready for introduction on 1 July 2017.

Here is the link to the online learner survey.

OUTLINE OF THE PREZI PRESENTATION

Suggested times	Item	Comments
2 mins	Opening video from Graham Stoop, Chief Executive, Education Council	• In this video Graham introduces the draft Code and invites learners to have their say about what they think makes a great teacher.
2 mins	Draft Code of Professional Responsibility: purpose and overview	• Brief overview on what the Code of Professional Responsibility is. • You may wish to talk about other professions that have codes of ethics or codes of conduct, such as nursing, social workers, lawyers, and doctors.
5	What makes a great teacher? Brainstorm exercise	• Rather than getting their feedback on the entire draft code, we are interested in their views on a few key issues. • This first question is a reflection exercise. Ask the learners to reflect on what makes a really great teacher. Ask them to call out words which capture those qualities. Write up words on a flipchart or whiteboard. • This question is also in the online survey using a drop down menu with examples for them to tick.
10	How can teachers promote your wellbeing and protect you from harm? • What are some ways your teachers do this well? • What are some the behaviours you wouldn't want to see in your teachers? How can teachers respect the diversity of your heritage, language, identity and culture? • What are some ways your teachers do this well? • What are some the behaviours you wouldn't want to see in your teachers? How can teachers demonstrate a high standard of integrity and be positive role models? • What are some ways your teachers do this well? • What are some the behaviours you wouldn't want to see in your teachers?	• These questions are also in the online survey using a drop down menu with examples for them to tick. • You could write up each question on a whiteboard or flipchart, and divide the screen or page in half with positive examples (+) and negative examples (-). • Again, ask the learners to call out the examples and write these up. • Reinforce that this is not about discussing the actions of particular teachers, rather, to get a picture of what learners value in their teachers and want to see reflected in their teachers' behaviour and practice.
2 mins	How to provide feedback	• Invite learners to take the learners online survey, either as part of the meeting or lesson if they have access to a computer, or after. • The survey can be completed as an individual or as a group. • Emphasise that their views are important and will help shape the final code.
1 min	Close and thanks	• In closing you may wish to advise them that if this discussion brings up any issues for them, encourage them to talk with someone (eg. their dean, principal, teacher, guidance counsellor, parents, whānau etc.) • Please thank them on our behalf.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

We really appreciate your role in leading these discussions. If you have any questions or have any feedback, please get in touch by emailing feedback@educationcouncil.org.nz