

What is Peer Mediation?

Peer mediation is a process whereby conflict or inappropriate behaviour between pupils in School is resolved with the help of others of a similar age. Mediation is a positive method of resolving conflict. Mediators act as an impartial third party in the dispute and help by following a structured process which they have been trained in.

The peer mediators use the mediation process to enable disputants to find a solution to their problem that both feel happy with - a win-win outcome

Pupils will not mediate fights or serious incidents of bullying, these will be dealt with by staff

What are the benefits to schools?

More disputes will be resolved before they escalate into serious problems

Small incidents will be dealt with effectively and positively, reducing the chance that they will escalate into bullying

Teachers and playground supervisors will be able to concentrate on more important issues because minor disputes are resolved without the need for their involvement - stress and strain on staff will be eased

Schools will be able to teach more effectively - teachers will be able to do a better job - whenever the behaviour of their pupils is improved

In schools committed to a positive self-esteem approach and the importance of citizenship peer mediation training will support this

What are the benefits to the pupils?

Pupils will gain invaluable life-skills and increased emotional intelligence

Pupils will be better able to communicate, co-operate, resolve conflict, empathise and problem-solve

Pupils' understanding of ethical and moral issues will be increased as they see the benefits of alternative conflict resolution

Pupils will take more responsibility for their behaviour and relationships

Pupils will learn how to handle and resolve conflict in a non-aggressive way

How is the training delivered?

The training is flexible to fit into the Schools needs and timing. Usually at least 2 days of training is needed for pupils to grasp the idea of mediation. If there are questions from this and further ongoing training another day or hold day session can be held. So we are looking at about 10 - 12 hours of induction training. Another way this can be done is over a weekend of training and not in School hours.

The sessions have been designed to be run by a trainer and someone from Luton mediation that has experience of mediation. It is important that a member of School staff is there during training to understand mediation and to be able to support pupils in school with this.

A variety of methods will be used - discussion, paired listening, idea showers, role-play and games

What does Luton mediation offer?

Luton mediation offers its full support through the project. Luton mediation can offer the training package and can train the pupils for the School. There are also a number of experienced mediators who can offer advise, and support to teachers and pupils. Luton mediation can also offer ongoing training and support or if pupils feel they need a refresher course in mediation.

Luton mediation would come back into the School every term for a support group meeting with pupils to see how the project is going.

Pupils would also be issued with certificates and a training manual for their hard work.

