



EduTrend Contents

P4C · FRIENDSHIP AND BELONGING · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Belonging

What does it mean to belong, and who decides?

Ages 11–13

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 03

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

Belonging

Students read an invented scenario: a school club says only people who have played for three years can join. Leo is new and keen. Students list the groups they know (teams, families, classes, online groups) and what belonging to them gives. They create questions and enquire into whether belonging is something we are given, earn or choose.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- analyse the concept of belonging;
- weigh benefits and harms of groups;
- reason about inclusion and exclusion;
- respect different views.

KEY WORDS

belong · group · include · exclude · member · identity

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: belonging and inclusion.
Citizenship: communities. History: group identity.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Club scenario card
- Group list sheet
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Use invented groups. Do not discuss real friendship groups in the class.

ACTIVITY 03 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Share the club scenario and the list of groups.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"What does it mean to belong?"</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Explain when a group may and may not leave people out.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Belonging to groups gives people identity and support, and research in psychology describes belonging as a basic human need.

Groups also set boundaries, which raises questions about when leaving people out is fair.

Common ideas to listen for

- “All exclusion is unfair.” Some groups have reasonable rules.
- “Belonging means being the same.” Groups can include difference.
- “You can only belong to one group.” People belong to many.

Adapting the activity

Support

Discuss one group only.

Stretch

Design a fair joining rule for the club.

WORKSHEET 1

My groups

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Think about groups.

My groups

Group	What it gives	Who decides who belongs

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

**Is it ever fair for a group to leave people out? Before the enquiry I thought...
Now I think... because...**

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Belonging is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Friendship and Belonging programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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