



The EDIt

WELCOME BACK TO 

This week, we take a look at the Language Awareness Course. The session is designed to educate students who have used prejudiced or non-inclusive, either in casual conversation or as a targeted comment towards another person. The session provides an opportunity to be educated around the power and impact of the language we use. In the session, we discuss different types of prejudiced language and explore why such language can be harmful and the potential impact it may have.

A key message from the session is that the focus is on the **impact** of the language and not the intent as language can be harmful, even if it is intended to be harmless. The session also reiterates the need to be respectful and the principle of treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves (The Golden Rule). The Language Awareness Course provides a safe space for the students to reflect and ask questions related to their use of language.

Key principles of the Language Awareness Course:

- ✓ Always be respectful
- ✓ It is ok to respectfully disagree or respectfully question

Key messages about the impact of prejudiced or non-inclusive language:

- Words can evoke inferiority.
- Words can belittle
- Words can suggest negativity/low value
- Words can promote an unhelpful idea of 'normal'
- Words can affect mental health
- Words can be harmful, even if they are meant to be harmless, or a joke.
- Words can be disrespectful

Strategies to help students avoid using prejudiced or non-inclusive language:

- ✓ Kindness
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Listen
- ✓ Think before speaking
- ✓ Consider the impact of what you're about to say
- ✓ If in doubt, say nothing
- ✓ If you do not have anything nice to say, do not say anything at all.

Working together in this way will help us to ensure that all students' interactions in school are positive and that they all feel safe and respected.

See you next week!