

Starting a Campaign Group

This resource was created from recommendations given by members of Bold Girls Ken, drawing on their experience participating in and leading a campaign on consent. Below are the key considerations they identified to begin and maintain a successful activist group in schools.

Recruitment

- Show young people the digital presentation to introduce them to the campaign
- Offer the opportunity to attend a taster session to anyone interested
- Speak to any pupils you think may be interested one-to-one
- It should be first come first served
- The ideal size of group is five to twelve
- Create separate groups for upper and lower pupils so all is appropriate for age and stage

Foundations

- The first session should focus on getting to know one another as a group
- It's important to map out plans and set expectations
- Sessions tend to work best starting with icebreakers and taking time to share names and pronouns
- The group should create an ongoing group agreement* which includes committing to active participation

Setting Up

- The group should meet in an comfortable setting (e.g. the library or a classroom with an informal set up)
- Snacks should be provided
- Short breaks should be taken regularly
- Pupils should be able to sit wherever and with whom they like
- Meetings can be more frequent initially but monthly works best

Best Practice

- Having a range of ages and genders present is helpful but not an essential
- There should be a short reflection exercise conducted at the end of each session
- When splitting into groups it is best to keep at least two friends together to make everyone feel comfortable
- All decisions should be entirely youth-led and agreed by the whole group if possible

**Establishing ground-rules for working together respectfully which should be referred to and assessed throughout the process!*

Getting to Know Each Other Exercises

1. Think of two truths and one lie, share with the group and see if they can guess which is false!
2. Write down an interesting fact about yourself, fold it up and put it in the middle. Take turns guessing which belongs to each person.
3. Ask some 'this or that' questions to the group to see what they have in common. Indicating preference by raising a hand or moving to a side of the room (depending on space).

Reflection Exercises

1. Use a post-it note to draw what comes to mind when you think about the session you just had or how it made you feel.
2. On a big sheet of paper answer a couple of questions e.g. one thing you are proud of, one thing you are hopeful for and one thing you are worried about.
3. Write down some words or phrases that pop into mind when you think about the session.

