

Controversial issues - Topic 4: Controversial issues and school culture

Controversial issues and school culture – Rate your school

To what extent does the prevailing ethos and culture in your school encourage people to talk about difficult issues? One way to find out how open your school is to these kinds of discussions is to carry out a simple attitude survey. In order to get a rounded picture, it will be important to involve the parents, as well as the students and teachers.

Here are some basic questions you could ask any school stakeholder:

SCHOOL CULTURE ATTITUDE SURVEY

At this school:

1. How are you treated by others?
2. How safe do you feel?
3. When there is a problem do you know to whom to turn to?
4. How well do you feel you are listened to?
5. What kinds of opportunities do you have to express your opinions?
6. How often do you have the chance to discuss your opinions with others from the school?
7. What say do you have in school rules and decision-making?
8. How well do you think students from different backgrounds mix?
9. How welcoming is the school culture for people with disabilities, of different genders or sexual orientation, or from different ethnic or religious groups?

