

# PEP toolkit: peer relationships

Virtual  
School

Hampshire Virtual School



## Indicators suggestive of insecure peer relationships at school:

- maintaining physical boundaries with peers
- asking peers to move in an appropriate manner if they are in the way
- conforming to the rules of the group
- accommodating (turn-taking) in play
- playing alongside others without causing a disturbance
- showing empathy for others
- showing genuine interest in other pupils
- forming genuine friendships with others
- attachment-seeking behaviours with peers (can result in experiencing feelings of rejection/personalisation/hypervigilance around peers, leading to fight/flight responses with peers)
- feelings of jealousy when validation is given to other children's work
- showing positively to peers. For example, are they disparaging of others? Do their achievements bear grudges (real or imagined), bully or intimidate others?



# Making and keeping friends

Support children when they are **building relationships**. Provide **mediated experiences** rather than waiting to respond in a crisis when their relationships start to go wrong.

Provide **structure** in their free time.

Get alongside them and **teach them how to play** and **interact with their peers** just as you would for a much younger pupil.



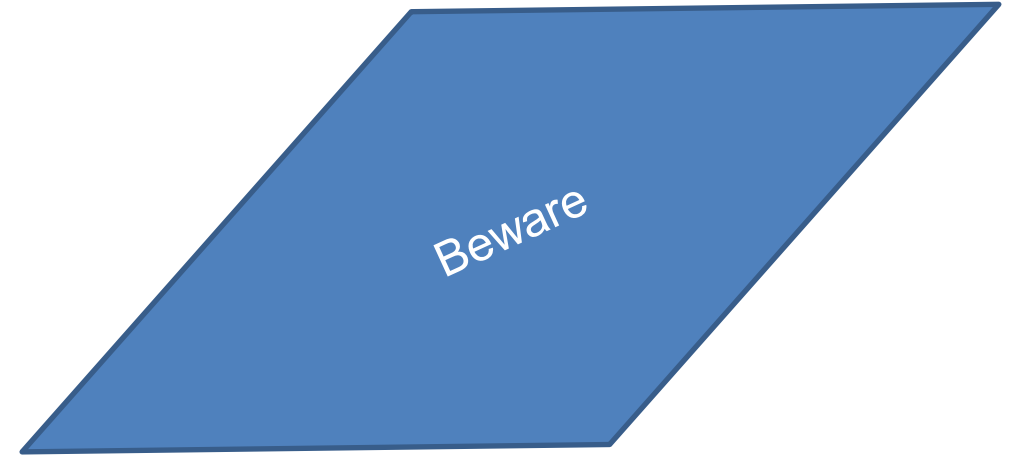
# Practical ideas – Zoning

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Classroom 1 Film	Classroom 1 Film	Classroom 1 Film	Classroom 1 Film	Classroom 1 Film
Drama room Organised activities (senior prefects)	Classroom 2a Peer mentor time for y7-8	Music suite Mid-week Quiz	Classroom 2a Peer mentor time for y10	Classroom 3 Music and chat KS3
Classroom 2a Peer mentor time for y9	Library Space for quiet time	Drama room Organised activities (senior prefects)	ICT rooms Gaming KS3	Classroom 2a Peer mentor time for y11
Room 6 Mondays mystery activity	ICT rooms Gaming KS4	Learning Support Homework help KS3	Learning Support Homework help KS4	Classroom 9 Music and chat KS4



# Buddying Systems

- Peer mentoring
- Peer tutoring
- Circle of friends
- Buddies
- Study partners
- Peer mediation



What experience do you have of these in your schools?

