

Being Friends Together

Ways of Working > Guidelines for Facilitators

Group learning agreement – young people or all age from 12 years (creative approach)

Working Agreements cover how the group will work together for example, listening to each other, respecting what others say, ensuring everyone is included, being able to ask for help, and being aware of time keeping.

Often it's easy to say these things – it's often harder think how it's going to happen in practice. What does being inclusive actually mean? Do people think about their body language, what about people they find annoying?

We'll be working together as a group for a number of sessions – and we're going to start out by sharing

- what motivates us to be here
- what we hope to gain
- and what we need from others in the group to help us to be involved.

Each participant should draw round their hand, using the fingers and thumbs to write their responses to the above. Give examples e.g.

- I'm here because people are always joking about Quakers and Oats
- I want to learn how to respond to jokes
- Be inclusive

Once completed participants should stick these in a circle on a large piece of paper – and the facilitator should highlight some of the key comments – for example what does it mean to be inclusive? Sum up by reminding the group that it's ok to take away ideas but not to repeat people's thoughts and stories outside of the group.

This activity will form the basis of the group's working agreement – so keep hold of this after the session so you can stick it up during the coming sessions.

<http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk>



Being Friends Together is a joint project of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre (Registered Charity Number: 313816) and Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) (Registered charity number: 112763).

