



What's going on this week?

Dr Amy Kavanagh is a visually impaired activist and campaigner who has recently launched the #JustAskDontGrab campaign to help change the way people interact with those with disabilities. She says that while people with disabilities often receive well-meaning offers of assistance, they're not always in the most helpful way.

Main question:

Is our help always wanted?

Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster image and talk about what we can see. Explain that a lady called Dr Kavanagh, who is partially sighted, would like to make people aware that people with disabilities may not always need or want help and that it's important to always ask first.
- Explain that when she launched the campaign, she was very surprised at how many people had stories about how they have been treated. For example, people in wheelchairs being moved out of the way, people who are unable to see being pushed or even carried across roads. Talk about how scary this might feel if this happened when you weren't expecting it.
- Read through Dr Kavanagh's explanation of why she doesn't always want help from the assembly resource and talk about why we should always ask and not just assume that because someone looks like they need our help, they actually want it. Then read through and discuss Dr Kavanagh's positive stories and advice for how we should provide and offer our help.
- Watch the Scope video clip from the useful videos (found overleaf), talk about how Scope are a charity who rely on funding and donations. When we watch the video, think about what Scope's main goals are and how they want to make the changes happen.

Reflection

We know that it's important to be kind and helpful but not everyone will always want or need our help – we must always politely ask and respect their wishes.



KS1 Focus

Question:

How can we make sure everyone is included?

Listen, think, share

- Ask the children to think about how we are all similar and how we are different. Talk about how some of us may find some things easy and others may find the same things hard.
- Explain that some people may have disabilities. Disabilities may make some everyday tasks difficult or not possible to do. E.g. some people can't see or hear or have use of their legs, so they may not be able to walk to the shops in the same way that we might. Talk about how this might affect the daily life for the person with each of the disabilities.
- Read through the story of the wildlife park from the KS1 resource and make lists of Max and Elliot's similarities and differences. Talk about some of the things at the park that helped make Max's trip more enjoyable? Discuss the things that Max may have found harder during his trip to the zoo. How might Elliot have helped him during the day?
- Imagine if we were organising a class party and consider how we could make sure that Max (who can't see) would be included in all our celebrations!

Reflection

We are all different! Some of us may not be able to experience things in the same way as others, so we must ask to find out how we can help others around us and make sure we all experience everything in the best way possible!



KS2 Focus

Question:

Why is it important to always ask before we help?

Listen, think, share

- Ask the children to think of reasons why it's important to help others. Talk about different times and details of when we have helped others.
- Explain that alongside people with visible disabilities, there are people who may have disabilities or barriers that prevent them from doing things that others can do or make it more challenging, but that we can't always tell. By asking every time if we can help, we are able to ensure we are being respectful to all.
- Read through the different examples that people shared from their experiences of the #JustAskDontGrab hashtag on social media from the KS2 resource. Did any of the stories surprise us? Talk through better ways that people could have handled each of the situations.
- Often the response given when someone offers unwanted help is "I was just trying to help". Why do you think this is given and do you think this is an acceptable response if someone didn't want help?

Reflection

People have all kinds of reasons for not wanting help, they may want to be independent, be fearful of strangers or they may just want to be asked. There are also people who may not obviously require our help but would appreciate it! It is important we always ask first, this way we can be sure we are doing the right thing and behaving in a respectful manner.

KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children what a slogan is.

- Can you remember the slogan from this week's news story?
- Does this make it a good slogan? Why/why not?

Explain that slogans are often used in advertising because they are striking and memorable.

- Why is it important to have a memorable slogan for Dr Kavanagh's campaign?

Think about other techniques used in advertising such as bright colours, bold, clear font, groups of three, pictures, persuasive, rhetorical question etc. Ask the children to design a poster to spread the word about the Just Ask Don't Grab campaign.

Option 2: Position equipment such as hoops, cones and beanbags in a space such as the hall, playground or your classroom. Ask the children to move around the room making sure they do not touch the equipment. Give commands such as stand near a beanbag, stand near something red etc.

- Was this task easy or hard?
- How might not being able to see affect your ability to perform the same task?

Give a further set of commands only this time, ask the children to work in pairs or groups and one person close their eyes. Ask the children to guide and support one another.

- Did you find it useful having someone help you?
- How did you prefer to be helped? Through verbal instructions? A hand, elbow, shoulder held?
- Did anyone want to try it alone?

Reinforce the fact that we are all different so what one person feels comfortable with may not always be the same as someone else.

KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children to imagine they are at the park, sitting on the big swing. Tell them that they have almost learned how to swing by themselves but not quite. As they practise, a lady wanders over and begins to push them; she can see you struggling and wants to help.

- How would this make you feel?

Write the following options on the board: happy – I was finding it hard and just wanted to swing, scared – I couldn't see who was pushing me so didn't like it, annoyed – I was trying to practise doing it by myself and didn't want help.

Ask the children to choose which option most suits how they felt. Give them each a counter or a post-it note to stick near their chosen feeling.

- How many children felt happy?
- Which was the most/least popular response?

Everyone is different so we all react differently. If the lady had asked, before beginning to push. Could everyone have felt happy?

Option 2: Ask the children to name different parts of their body – eyes, ears, mouth, hands, arms, legs. Point to your elbow, wrist, heel and ankle and ask if anyone can name them? Think about the job/function each part of the body does.

- How do you use different parts of your body when you are at school?
- Could you complete your daily tasks in the same way if you couldn't see, hear, use your arms or legs?

You could have a go at performing a task such as rolling a die and telling a partner what number it landed on. How could you complete the task if you couldn't see or you didn't have use of your arms? Everything is possible. Sometimes we need help, sometimes we do not.

This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

<http://bit.ly/2wGuWMD>



This Week's Useful Videos

How Scope helps to make a difference

<http://bit.ly/2NHtRep>

