

Providing a safe and supportive learning environment in homework clubs

Students from migrant and refugee backgrounds will have a wide range of prior learning experiences including broken or unsafe learning journeys. As tutors it is important to consider how to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students and the following suggestions below can assist.

ACTIONS	HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?
Be positive and praise effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourage and compliment students' achievements and attempts ✓ Focus on what they have done well ✓ Be accepting rather than judgemental ✓ Ask students about their interests and follow up on these
Be reliable and trustworthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Do what you say you will and follow through ✓ Meet your commitments ✓ Maintain confidentiality unless the student's safety and wellbeing are at risk ✓ Provide good role modelling ✓ Be available
Communicate respectfully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pronounce students' names correctly ✓ Use active listening techniques ✓ Model polite forms of language ✓ Use inclusive body language
Ask relevant questions of students, but also respect their privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Judge whether or not students want to share information ✓ Recognise students control whether to disclose personal stories ✓ Acknowledge students' feelings ✓ If students talk about stressful events, listen and respond in a supportive way
Provide opportunities for appropriate expression of difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourage students to ask questions, seek advice/help for problems ✓ Encourage creative expression through a range of mediums
Make students feel safe and secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Explain rules and expectations ✓ Try to be consistent, calm and clear ✓ Provide routines but also be flexible ✓ Be clear about limits for behaviour

<p>Help students set achievable goals, leading to a positive sense of the future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Know the students' strengths and interests and build on them ✓ Find out what opportunities exist ✓ Incorporate this into goal setting ✓ Model short and long term goal setting ✓ Encourage optimism about the future and about making progress ✓ Celebrate success and achievements
<p>Encourage friendships and positive relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourage sharing and connections with other students, especially where there are common interests ✓ Encourage peer support and feedback with tasks
<p>Encourage students to make appropriate choices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide opportunities for choice whenever it is practical and within the limits of the programme. This will empower students