

RESPECTING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

The assembly topic for today was 'Respecting the Needs of Others'.

Mrs Balendra had transparencies of various daily situations, which showed others in need. "Here's a fantastic platform to introduce the Cloud to the entire cohort of p.m. session pupils," I thought to myself. Although I was eager to try it out with the kids, I was a bit hesitant at first. It was one thing to try out the TACT Tools on individuals, pairs, a small class of pupils, but a totally different thing to use it in front of 700 pupils and 27 teachers!

It took lots of courage and determination and an attitude of "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." At least if it was a total failure this time, there would be lessons that I could learn from it. I was really afraid that if it was not handled properly, some teachers might close their minds to the Cloud even before I have a chance to formally share it with them!

So with great trepidation, I rounded up the assembly talk like I usually did every week. I retrieved Mrs Balendra's OHT on a bus scene where a young girl took up two seats by putting her teddy bear on the seat beside her.

Standing beside her were an old man holding a walking stick and a heavily laden mother carrying a baby.

I extended the pupils' thinking by doing a cloud with them on this familiar dilemma - to give up their seat for an elderly person or a mother carrying a baby or not to give up the seat. It only took 10 minutes. I wished I had more time to fully explore the assumptions and the injection. A few teachers told me that they liked the fact that I spoke to the children about this constant internal dilemma they faced in simple everyday situations. They thought the cloud helped their children to think through their conflicts and see the needs for taking one option as opposed to another. I was grateful that nobody told me that I was spouting nonsense. And most gratifying was the kids' spontaneous response as the cloud was built up. I would definitely be keeping my ears and my eyes opened for opportunities of this sort in future.

