

Dialogue Question Bank: Practicing Respectful and Constructive Conversations

Personal Experience & Identity

- What's a part of your identity that you wish more people understood or noticed?
- When have you felt most proud of who you are?
- What's one way your background has shaped your perspective on fairness or justice? (define both terms)
- Which parts of your identity are visible at school? Which parts are invisible?
- What's a stereotype or assumption people have made about you? How did it make you feel?
- What's something others might not guess about your values or experiences?

Caring Across Differences

- What's a belief or experience that has shaped your worldview?
- What's something you and someone with different beliefs might have in common?
- When was a time you connected with someone you thought you'd disagree with?
- How do you stay respectful when someone sees things differently than you?
- What's something you're curious to learn about people who are different from you?
- When have you changed your mind after a conversation? What helped that happen?

School Climate & Culture

- When do you feel most safe at school? When do you not?
- What's one thing that would make your school feel more inclusive?

- Do you think students at your school care about each other? Why or why not?
- What's something you wish adults at school understood about students?
- When have you seen someone stand up for another student? What did that teach you?
- If you could write a letter to your school community, what would it say?

Justice, Equity & Responsibility

- How do you define social justice?
- What does "fairness" mean to you? How do you know when something is unfair?
- What responsibilities do students have to each other?
- Have you ever noticed someone being treated unfairly because of who they are? What did you do, or wish you had done?
- What's a cause or issue you care about and why?
- What do you think makes someone a changemaker?

Belonging & Exclusion

- When have you felt like you truly belonged? What did it feel like?
- Have you ever felt excluded at school? What helped or would have helped?
- What are ways people at school make others feel unwelcome? How can we change this?
- What does it look like when a school really values inclusion?
- Who helps you feel seen or understood at school?
- What do you think makes a group or space feel safe for everyone?

Conflict, Courage & Speaking Up

- Have you ever spoken up when something felt wrong or unfair? What happened?
- What's one barrier that makes it hard to speak up?

- What does respectful disagreement look like to you?
- What's something you wish you could say in school, but don't?
- When do you stay silent, and when do you speak up?

Empathy & Listening

- What helps you feel truly heard in a conversation?
- When have you felt empathy from someone who was very different from you? (define)
- What's the difference between listening to respond and listening to understand?
- What's something you've learned just by listening to someone's story?
- How can empathy help reduce conflict or misunderstanding at school?
- What stops people from listening in tough conversations?

Visioning & Action

- What kind of school community do you want to be part of?
- If you had a magic wand to change one thing about school culture, what would it be?
- What do you think your role is in building a caring community?
- Who's someone at school who models courage or care? Why?
- What's one step you could take this week to make someone feel more included?

Values & Beliefs

- What values guide the way you treat others?
- Where do your values come from? (family, religion, culture, experience, etc.)
- Have you ever felt your values were in conflict with what others expected of you? How did you handle that conflict?

- What does respect mean to you in conversations? What does it look like? (define)
- Can two people disagree and still be respectful? What makes that possible?
- When do you feel most true to yourself? Why?