



# Responsibility Ladder

Dear parents,

We use this 'Responsibility Ladder' as a simple model to promote more considerate behaviour and the awareness of the value of following rules and being co-operative. You may wish to check your child's understanding and awareness of the levels. This is a tool to help students think constructively about modifying/improving their behaviour. In any chat I have with a child about a behaviour issue I will avoid telling a child what level I think they are acting at. Instead I will ask, 'So what level do you think you were on when you were doing that?' 'Is that acceptable?' 'What would I see if you were acting at level C instead?' 'How would that help?'

For a change to really occur a child needs to know what is expected, understand how their choices are affecting others and see the benefit of following the rule. Students can see that levels **C & D** are 'above' the line of acceptability and **A & B** are below the line. Students are taught that they have a right to meet their needs for fun, power, choice and belonging. But **they also have the choice of how responsibly they act** to meet these needs. Nobody controls the behaviour of others – not even me! We are all in control of our own choices and this message is consistently presented to students. This is particularly useful when students abstain from responsibility by responding that 'somebody made me do it.'

Students learn that each choice brings its own consequence and the more responsibly we act the happier everyone can remain. Students can see that acting at a particular level is more likely to produce a response at that same level e.g. a **B** level action towards another (bossing or bullying) generally invites a similar **B** level response. The higher the level, the happier the outcome for all.

Tom Moth

