

Dear Parents,

Over the next few weeks in Year 5 we are going to be teaching your children a new skill. The skill is called "intelligent disobedience" and it is based on the work of Ira Chaleff.

Here is a useful video which explains the idea of intelligent disobedience for children, and a little about what we will be teaching your children.

BLINK, THINK, CHOICE, VOICE: <https://youtu.be/RdKPIK71SP8>

The intention is to teach the children how to make sensible decisions about instructions that they are given by adults, particularly adults who they know.

This might mean that your children question some of the instructions that you give them over the next few weeks. While the children are learning how to use intelligent disobedience, they may need your help and support.

These are some of the things you might consider doing, if your child questions an instruction:

- In an emergency, say, "It's an emergency so I can't tell you why we need to do this now, but I will explain later."
- Praise children when they do question you, but encourage them to think about the reasons behind instructions. This will help them to recognise unreasonable or unsafe requests.
- You can use phrases like these:
 - "Why do you think I am telling you to do that?"
 - "What do you think might happen if we don't do that?"
 - "Can you think of another way for us to...?"

We hope that this skill, which we will continue to develop throughout the year, will give the students valuable strategies for resisting peer pressure as well as knowing when to do the right thing and, importantly, how.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Yours sincerely,
Stephanie Howdle-Lang
Vice Principal Primary (Wellbeing)