

## Year 1 - Term 1

<b>Week 1:</b>	<b>Ethics-Golden Rule</b>
<b>Strand:</b>	<b>Love of others/ Love of self</b>
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Year 1</b>
<b>Aim:</b>	<b>To introduce the students to the concept of ethics and the golden rule.</b>
<b>Resources:</b>	<b>A2 poster saying “Treat everyone the way you would like to be treated.”, paper, pencils</b>

**Introduction:** Hello everyone. My name is ... and I will be coming into your class for one hour a week to talk with you about aspects of Love and Ethics.

**Sharing:** What does love look like or feel like? There are no right or wrong answers here. (Invite answers from the students. If they are way off, i.e. punching someone, ask them why they feel it is love.)

**Conversation:** I see some of you already have ideas of what love might be. Has anyone heard the word ethics or ethical before? (Invite answers) It sounds like a pretty big word but all it means is this: Treat everyone the way you would like to be treated.

**Sharing:** How do you like to be treated? (Invite answers.)

What does it feel like to be hit?

What do you like to share with others?

How do you feel when others say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’?

How do you feel when someone yells at you?

What do you do when you feel stuck or need help?

**Conversation:** So, this is how you like to be treated by others, with kindness. Being ethical means that you treat everyone the way you like to be treated. If you don’t like being hit, then don’t hit others. If you like getting help when you are stuck, then help others if you see they need help.

(Bring out the poster) This is called the “Golden Rule”.

Let’s look at some examples.

### **Role Play:**

- (Ask one child to play the part of the ball owner. Pretend you are a child, skipping along. You find a bouncy ball and pick it up. Saying to yourself: “Wow, what a cool bouncy ball. I’m gonna keep that. Lucky day!!!” Then you see someone crying, saying “I lost my bouncy ball.” You stop and think: “If I had lost my toy, would I like to get it back? (To the class): If you had lost your toy, would you like it back? So what is the ethical thing to do? (To the crying child): “I found this ball over there. Is this

yours?”

- You are on the swing and someone else has been waiting for their turn for a little while. (What would be the ethical thing to do? (Pause for answers. Use the second question if the students need help.) If you were waiting for a turn on the swing, how would you like to be treated?

(Invite 2 students to role play this situation after it has been discussed with the class)

- What if you see someone getting hurt, what would be ethical? (Pause for answers. Use the second question if the students need help.) If you were getting hurt, what would you like an observer to do? (Invite 2-4 students to role play this situation after it has been discussed with the class)

- If you are better at reading, running, maths... than someone else, would it be ethical to tease them about it? Why?/ Why not? (Pause for answers. Use the second question if the students need help.) How would you feel if someone teases you for not being so good at something yet?

- If someone has just hit you, does that mean that you can hit them back? Because then you are treating them the same way they treated you. Would that be ethical? Why?/ Why not? (Invite answers.) (Pause for answers. Use the second question if the students need help.) Ask yourself: Do I like to be hit? No. So then I won't hit anyone else, even if they have hit me. But what CAN you do when someone has hit you and you feel you want to hit them back? Walk away, talk to the teacher about it, punch the air...

(Pretend you have just been hit in the nose. Show your emotions about it.) “That was sooo mean and it hurts. I want to hit them back!..... But do I like being hit? No, it feels horrible! So, I won't do that to anyone. But they are not allowed to hit me, so I WILL tell a teacher what happened. Then they might not hit others again.”

**Creativity:** Draw a picture about love and ethics.

**Conclusion:** So being ethical does not mean to treat others the way they treat you. Instead, before you act, especially when you feel angry, afraid or sad, pause and ask yourself: Would I like to be pushed, put down, stolen from, yelled at etc. If the answer is no, then don't do it. That is being ethical. Pretty simple really, hey? Big word, simple meaning. Time to go out into the school grounds and practice being ethical. Don't forget to have fun!

**The Golden Rule:  
Treat  
everyone  
the way  
you would  
like  
to be treated.**