



Barrow Hills
SCHOOL

Mr Crisell's Assembly

Monday 22nd June



If we can't solve it via email, instant messaging, text or phone calls, let's resort to meeting in person!

What do you think this
means?

Communicating effectively is important!

How many conversations have you had in the past week? They may have been at home, on the way to school, with your form tutor, with your friends, family or simply with people with whom you've shared a few words.

These conversations will have taken place in various ways: depending on your age, they may have been face to face, on your mobile, in a set of emails or text messages, on a comment thread on Instagram, Snapchat, Google meet, or Facebook and maybe even on a Skype or FaceTime conversation with someone in a different country.

I wonder . . . were the conversations good? Do we consider that it was time well spent? Have they made us happy? Have they helped us plan the day?

Or, I wonder . . . has a conversation given rise to some doubt or confusion? Is there anything you regret saying or writing? Do you wonder whether the conversation will continue?

That's the problem with conversations. They don't always turn out the way we expect. In fact, they can all too easily spiral out of control. Today, we're going to think about our conversations and suggest some skills for how to make them constructive.

Have you noticed that a conversation always has at least two sides, and sometimes, many more than two? Listen to this conversation.

Person 1: I had an amazing time last night.

Person 2: Did you do the maths homework?

Person 1: We went into town and you'll never guess who we bumped into.

Person 2: I really struggled with Section 3. Even my mum couldn't help me.

Person 1: We were standing outside McDonald's, waiting for James to come out, when we saw someone come round the corner.

Person 2: It made me wonder whether there wasn't a mistake in the textbook.

Person 1: I hadn't seen him up-close before, but there's no doubt it was him.

Person 2: I'm just going to have to admit that I haven't done it. Do you think our teacher will understand?

There are two sides to this conversation, but they don't appear to meet in the middle, do they? That's because a conversation is not just about what two people want to say. It's about the process of listening as well as speaking. It's no different if the conversation is a series of email messages. Reading and understanding before responding is essential if a constructive dialogue is to be achieved.

It's important to communicate effectively but what does that mean?

We need to think about a few things:

1. Choose the right moment to say what you need to say. If there is a better time and place and it can wait...then wait!
2. Think about the tone of your voice/text. Is it calm, aggressive, assertive?
3. If face to face, consider the message your body language is sending out. Facial expressions speak a thousand words!

In the following story, look how the rabbit uses simple, calm communication to save himself...

If we don't communicate what we really need to say, things might not work out..

[A guide to effective communication](#)



The first two animals are tense, they don't know how to negotiate and that's why they don't communicate effectively. While the rabbit is relaxed, he approaches the bear in a good mood, he negotiates to spare his life and communicates effectively.

Simple but effective!

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for conversation.

Thank you for news to share, suggestions to make and questions to ask.

May I listen and read carefully, respond thoughtfully and live without regret.

Amen.

Monday's song..'Memories'

We may communicate in different languages..
but music is the language that we all understand

[Maroon 5 - Memories \(Cover\) One Voice Children's Choir](#)

