

PEP Glossary-Language That Cares

Language That Cares:

When a young person is Gillick competent and able to access their file, they will see everything that you have written about them. This could be many years after you wrote it, and there is no opportunity for them to go back and speak to you about it. All too often, the language used in children's files is cold, negative and impersonal.

Do you ever think how a young person will feel when they read what you have written? By taking a moment to think about the words you are using, you can show you care and make what can be a difficult experience, more positive.

Show you care, by using language that cares.

Virtual School Vision:

During EPEP training in Jan 2022, Designated Teachers asked the Virtual School to provide them with resources to be used as a reference point when completing the ePEP document. We have gathered together a bank of words and phrases we often see used in PEP documents. We have re-worded these so that they are more positive and caring. Please bear in mind these are suggestions to get you started. We would encourage schools to develop their own Language That Cares and write in a respectful, sensitive manner for all children and young people.

Examples:

Commonly used word or phrase	Re-worded example using language that cares
Aggressive	When X is anxious or feels threatened they can appear angry towards their peers. They may raise their voice or lash out. When this happens the following support is needed to make them feel safe:
Attention Seeking	X needs to have an adult nearby in order to feel safe and will use the following techniques to gain the adult's attention if they are feeling unsafe/anxious.
Can't be bothered/lazy	Can find it difficult to feel motivated
Contact	Time with family/friends
Defiant/obstinate	Independent/likes to do things their way
Disengaged	Finds it hard to focus/concentrate
Doesn't like learning	Can find it challenging to take on/remember new knowledge/skills
Lack of engagement	X's previous life experiences have impacted on their resilience and they become anxious if they feel they may fail or get something wrong. This means they find it difficult to take part in some lessons.
Manipulative/controlling	Feels safe when they are leading
Placement/home	Home with foster family Home with birth family
Produces the bare minimum	Needs support to make answers thorough and include additional content
Re-homed	Is moving to a new home

We will be adding to this glossary and would love to include your ideas. Please send your suggestions for Language that Cares for PEP documents to: virtualschooladmin@gloucestershire.gov.uk. Many thanks.