

# be responsible at school

As a person grows up they usually have more responsibility. Even though your family and teachers can always help you, being responsible means being able to look after yourself in the correct way, as well as knowing when to do the right thing. There are many different areas that a student needs to be responsible in. Some of these areas can include:

- Getting yourself ready in the morning
- Having your bag packed with everything you need
- Looking after a pet if you have one
- Being on time
- Listening carefully to instructions
- Putting things away properly so that you can find them

## ➤ Think of some examples of when you have been responsible.

An important part of being responsible is **taking responsibility for your own behaviour**. You are the only person who controls your behaviour. Sometimes you might feel like other people influence your behaviour, but you are really the only person that is responsible for your behaviour. This means that if you do something wrong, you accept it. It is easy to say “they made me do it”, but this is not a good excuse. You cannot blame anyone else for something that you do.

Being responsible for your own behaviour also means that when you do something right, you can be proud and take the credit for it.

**Being honest** is another important part of being responsible. Being honest means telling the truth all of the time. This can be difficult sometimes because people worry that if they tell the truth they might get themselves or other people into trouble. But if you lie, you will end up in more trouble than if you tell the truth. If you don't tell the truth, people usually find out the truth anyway, so it is much better to be honest in the first place.

## ➤ Can you think of a time when you were honest and it felt good?

One challenge at school, especially as you get older is to be organised. When you are very young, your parents and teachers can help you to pack your bags and get ready and write down your homework, but as you get older, it is expected that these are things that you do on your own – this is all part of **staying organised**. Staying organised will help you to save time, be ready for things, know what you have to do and not waste time looking for things and thinking about what you have to do next.

Ways to stay organised include:

- writing things down
- using a pin or notice board
- using reminder or post-it notes
- using your diary
- having a routine

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## ➔ How do you stay organised?

Another area of being responsible is to **speak out if you or others need help or support.** This is important because sometimes you can get sucked in to doing things that are not right. If this is happening, it is very important for you to speak out and say that you do not want to be involved with something that you feel is wrong. If you do know about something wrong that has happened it is important to tell your teacher.

## ➔ When do you think it might be important to speak out?

## ➔ What else do you think helps you to be responsible?