



Strategies to address conflict in schools

A few points to keep in mind:

1. Conflict exists in many parts of the world. When conflict is close to our everyday lives it can be traumatic and scary, especially for children.
2. Where such conflict is personal for children it is best to acknowledge this difficulty and your support for that child; however, it is best to keep this general rather than specific. Ignoring it is not an option for child-centered schools.
3. It is of vital importance that the classroom remains a safe, stable, and nurturing environment for all children and especially during difficult periods. There are a number of recommended resources listed below which will help class teachers to create and maintain classrooms as safe spaces.

Recommended resources:

- [Educate Together Little Course](#): Online course with methodologies for Ethical Education. Module 5 (Managing Conflict and Facilitating Dialogue on Controversial Issues) is relevant. *(You may need to register for an account with your email address to access this course).*
- [Educate Together: An Introduction to Restorative Practice in Educate Together Schools](#) *(You may need to register for an account with your email address to access this course).*
- [Tackling Controversial Issues in the Citizenship Classroom](#): Methodologies to support discussing and managing controversial issues in a child-centered classroom
- [Teaching Controversial Issues: Training Pack for Teachers](#)
- [Unicef Resources for teaching about Refugees](#)
- [RTE News2Day: How to deal with upsetting news terms](#)
- [Educate Together Poster: Some people believe ...](#)

The following picture and thematic books and resources are recommended by Educate Together staff, the links are live for ease of access.

Theme: Challenging / Difficult Issues
The Whispering Town WW2, Holocaust
Line of Fire: Diary of an Unknown Soldier WW1
Separate Is Never Equal Separate Schools in US 1960s
So Far from the Sea Internment of Japanese-Americans during WW2
Fly Away Home Homelessness
Maddi's Fridge Hunger and poverty
The Rabbits Colonisation
Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote Parent travels away to find work
Four Seat, Two Sandals Life in a refugee camp

[The boy and the Wall](#) – written and illustrated by Palestinian refugee children

[Terezin: A Story of the Holocaust](#)

[Half Spoon of Rice: A Survival Story of the Cambodian Genocide](#)

[Cicada: Corporate life](#)

[White Socks Only](#) – African-American girl drinks at 'Whites Only' water fountain

[Green Lizards and Red Rectangles](#): A story about War and Peace

Theme: Migration / Immigration

[Grandfather Counts](#)

[The Arrival](#)

[Refugees and Migrants](#)

[My Two Blankets](#)

[Who are Refugees and Migrants? What makes people leave their homes and other big questions](#)

[Migrant](#)

[The Journey](#)

[Mama's Nightingale](#)

[The Colour of Home](#)

[How to Put a Whale in a Suitcase](#)

[Azzi In Between](#)

[The Island](#)

Background information and support on Educate Together's ethos

Educate Together's Ethos Guidance Platform is a resource for all Educate Together schools. The following are a few key areas that may give you, the class teacher some background support:

- [Equality-based teaching and learning](#)
- [Rights versus Beliefs](#)
- [Culturally Responsive Teaching](#)

You can access the platform here at <https://ethos.educatetogether.ie/>. If you haven't used the site already you will need to register as a user, to do this all you need is your email address and school roll number.

Suggested classroom activities:

- Revise/devise a class charter. Add in some rules around respectful discourse and ask all children to sign it again.
- Remind the students to avoid generalist terms and references that stereotype mass groups of people. Using the recommended resources above choose some class activities that focus on highlighting our commonalities rather than differences.