



YOUNG PEOPLE MATTER CHARITY'S
BUDDY SYSTEM

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YPM Buddy System

At Young People Matter we want children to feel safe and secure when engaging in outdoor play. We have a wealth of facilities in the playground to keep the children active and happy. However to enhance the children's experience at Young People Matter have established a Buddy System with the following aims.

Older buddies are encouraged to:

- Help prevent children feeling unhappy or lonely at playtime.
- Help children who find it difficult to make friends.
- Model good behaviour.
- Play with and introduce new games to children.
- Be caring
- Have respect for others.
- Listen carefully to the children.

Our buddy system is also used to help settle new children into after school club/half term provisions

Positive effects from Buddy System

- More responsible attitude of older children.
- Better social bonds across different age groups.
- Feeling valued
- Security
- Building better relationships
- Increasing self-esteem and confidence
- Reduce bullying.

The buddies are rotated termly so each child in ks2 will get to be a buddy throughout the academic year.

Why did we introduce the Buddy System?

We introduced a buddy system to give the older children a sense of responsibility, as well as to increase social interaction and appropriate play among children in our setting. A peer buddy can help the child who has difficulty with transitions, difficulty remembering the rules and procedures of routines, or who seems to need a lot of peer attention. It is also a nice way to give children experience in learning how to play together and how to compromise.

We want to minimise any chance of bullying in the club as all children have the right to **be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution, all without fear or intimidation.**