ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΙΑ · LOVE OF WISDOM

Code of Conduct

MUST READ BEFORE YOUR FIRST SESSION



The Philosophy Playground

Expect difficult conversations

We take on big, sometimes uncomfortable questions, and you will hear views you strongly disagree with. Come ready to engage with them thoughtfully, courteously and with an open mind.

No insults

Insulting others is forbidden. We do not tolerate referring to people or their ideas in an accusatory or derogatory way.

NOT OK "You're stupid." "That's just incoherent rambling." "What a s**t belief." "You're being hysterical."

No bigotry

Never demean anyone for who they are. Racist language, remarks designed to antagonise people of a particular faith, and derogatory language about anyone's sex, sexuality, nationality or background are all forbidden.

NOT OK "Typical woman, getting emotional." "You're white trash." "People from there are all the same." "Anyone who believes that is a brainwashed idiot."

Challenge ideas, not people

Disagreement is welcome, and challenging ideas is more than accepted. Say why you disagree, with civility.

WELCOME "I don't think that's quite right." "Here's how I see it." "I think your point on that is underdeveloped. I disagree because…"

Every belief can be questioned

No belief is off limits. You may openly question and disagree with any religion, ideology or political position, including contested ideas about sex and gender. Criticising a belief is not attacking the people who hold it.

WELCOME "I don't think there's good evidence for God, and here's why." "I disagree with that religious teaching because…" "I don't accept that gender identity should take priority over biological sex, because…"

Don't take it personally

Disagreement is not a personal attack, so don't treat it as one. Listening is as valuable as speaking.

Explore, don't defend

We're here to seek truth, not to win. Come with an open, reflective attitude, not a defensive one.

Keep it philosophical

Politics may come up, but keep it grounded in philosophy and on the week's theme.

Report any bullying. You can always contact your Philosophy Playground organiser if you have any bullying concerns, or send them to **ben@philosophyplayground.com**.

Philosophical reflection

"It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows."

Epictetus, Discourses, Book II

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

Aristotle

"The aim of argument, or of discussion, should not be victory, but progress."

Joseph Joubert

"In a true dialogue, both sides are willing to change."

Thich Nhat Hanh