



How to engage with your school about Israel-Palestine

- **Know your rights**

Schools have a duty of care to support your wellbeing: in particular, to support you if you experience grief, distress or isolation as a result of the situation in Gaza. Equally, schools are obliged to provide accurate information to students and should not present anything that is biased or one-sided.

- **Ask for a space for discussion**

An important part of education is learning about the wider world. This means thinking and talking about major issues, like climate change and serious conflicts e.g. the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Ask your teacher where you and your friends can have the opportunity to express your views and develop your understanding of the issue of Palestine-Israel.

- **Use the school's official channels**

Talk to your pastoral team or your form teacher about how you are feeling. Raise concerns through the student parliament. Write a letter or e-mail to the headteacher or the school governors.

- **Act with others where you can**

You will, almost certainly, not be the only one who feels the way you do. Finding allies among other students, parents and teachers will help to amplify your voice and have a bigger impact. For example, writing a letter, collectively, is more likely to get a better response.

- **Be patient and persistent**

If you don't get the response you want first time, don't give up. It often takes time and perseverance to change people's minds. Follow up politely.

- **Always speak with respect**

People are more likely to listen to you when you speak with respect, even if others don't speak to us with respect. When we speak about Palestine, we are representing the Palestinian people, so we want to present them in the best possible light. Despite how strongly you may feel, try to avoid inflammatory language.

