

# BRIDGE ROAD SCHOOL

## FOCUS OF THE WEEK

# Talking in turn

Talking is our natural way of learning. We learn to talk before we learn to write and draw. It is natural to want to talk, to share ideas and discoveries. As part of their social journey children need to learn when talking is right and wrong and how to share their talking time, not how to dominate.

Children are often told in the classroom not to talk for various reasons. Teachers at Bridge Road School set the protocols for talk in the classroom so that talk is a learning tool. This is also so that students become accustomed to talking and sharing their ideas in the classroom.

Along with talking must come listening. Students must be able to listen to each other and teachers must learn to listen to students. By modelling good listening skills, looking at the speaker, asking clarifying questions and paraphrasing helps students learn this.

Getting students to talk in turn inside and outside the classroom is an important life skill and is not always an easy thing to accomplish. It is important for students to verbalise what they're thinking about and share their ideas. Contributing as part of a group is a critical component in the learning process.

