**Setting up a Peer Support Scheme**

**Keeping Confidentiality**

It is important that pupils can trust the peer supporters, otherwise they will not use the scheme. You should think about the interactions expected to take place between:

* Young people using the service & the supporters
* Supporters & other supporters
* Supporters & members of staff involved in the project

How will information remain confidential?

Consider:

What level of privacy will there be? Where is support being provided?

How will peer supporters let people know it is a confidential service?

Peer supporters should see themselves as part of a network of support – their role is different to that of a friend.

How will confidentiality work in the group? They will need opportunities to talk about how their peer support work is going but still do this in confidence. They should be encouraged to talk about issues they face but without mentioning the names or identifying features of anyone.

Peer supporters need to understand the need to keep ‘exciting’ information confidential & that this mustn’t turn up as gossip in the playground.

If you are keeping any records these will need to be confidential & comply with the Data Protection Act.

Peer supporters should never promise not to tell anyone.

**Breaking Confidentiality**

Peer supporters & staff should be clear when confidentiality needs to be broken – for example child protection/safeguarding issues. It may be helpful to have a confidentiality statement.

What would be the procedure for passing information on – who would the peer supporter go to?

The young person using the scheme needs to be supported & have the information explained to them.

Peer supporters must be offered adequate support themselves.

A peer support scheme should work within the safeguarding procedures that already exist in your school.