

## If the Answer Is "No": What to Say in a School Meeting Practical Prompts to Keep the Conversation Going and for Clarity

*This handout was created to support the webinar 'Speaking Up at School: Communication with Education Staff'*

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Hearing 'no' in a school meeting can feel discouraging. But a 'no' does not have to end the conversation. Here are questions and prompts that can help you:

- understand how the decision was reached
- encourage transparency
- create a clear record of what has been discussed
- identify the next steps if you disagree.

### Questions to ask:

- Could you help me understand the reasons for that decision?
- Could that decision be confirmed in writing?
- What evidence or information informed that decision?
- What would need to change for this to be reconsidered?
- What is the next step if we can't reach agreement?
- Who else should I speak with about this?
- Could we review this after trying some adjustments?

These questions invite the school staff to explain their thinking rather than simply repeating their position.