



## Key principles of promoting positive behaviour

- Know the young people and parents/carers in your section - Managing the transition between sections so that a new young person coming into the section knows the leaders and other young people within the section and how the section works. Making use of buddies during this process can be particularly valuable for a new young person so that they don't feel alone or isolated.
- Offer praise and recognition - Fostering a culture of praise and not blame has shown time and time again to encourage good behaviour. Praise young people for doing the right thing rather than criticising those doing the wrong thing. 'Thank you' and 'Well done' need to be heard and meant when talking to young people and between leaders too.
- Establish good routines - It's important to have a routine for meetings - start and finish 'formally' and set expectations of what is required from young people, adults and parents/carers at that particular meeting. Make sure that your expectations and actions are consistent from meeting to meeting.
- Set the boundaries with the young people - Make sure that all involved know what acceptable and unacceptable behaviour is. It is best practice to instil a code of conduct into the section (a young leader could deliver and facilitate this for example) based on the Promise, but in language that is appropriate for the age of the section. Young people are more likely to remember and stick to a code of conduct that they themselves have played a part in creating. This then needs to be emphasized reinforced and revisited where appropriate in the programme or when behaviour is inappropriate.