



Activity 3 – What makes schools safe? A diamond nine

The purpose of a **diamond nine**¹ is to promote discussion or reflection about the relative importance of a range of factors. This method of ranking can be used in many different contexts where there is a need to define, prioritise or make decisions. For example, it could be used to evaluate different definitions of ‘development’, or to prioritise classroom rules. Pupils begin by reading the nine cards with statements describing a safe education.

These are based on the issues raised by the **issue tree activity** (Activity 2). Pupils select the statement they think is the most important and place that card at the top of the diamond nine. They then select the next two most important statements and place them in the second row of the diamond nine, and so on as shown in the diagram.

By the end of the activity, students should have decided the three or four most important elements they would prioritise if they were asked to provide all children with a ‘safe education’.

This activity could be differentiated by asking younger students to distribute 20 counters or stickers among the different boxes to reflect which statement (or statements) they feel is the most important. Pupils should be told that there is no minimum or maximum number of counters for any statement. In other words, some statements could have none and they could put all the counters on one if they want.

Print and cut out the diamond nine cards on the next page. A further option is to add blank cards for pupils to write their own ideas.

Allow time at the end of the activity for pupils to share their ideas together.

DIAMOND NINE RANKING

1
2 2
3 3 3
4 4
5

The purpose of diamond nine ranking is to provoke discussion or reflection about the relative importance of a range of factors. This method of ranking can be used in many different contexts where there is a need to define, prioritise or make decisions. For example, it could be used to evaluate nine different definitions of ‘development’, or to select classroom rules.

© Oxfam (2015)

¹ Full details about how to organise a diamond nine are given in Oxfam (2015) **Global Citizenship in the Classroom: A guide for teachers**, pp. 15 and 19
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/global-citizenship/global-citizenship-guides>



DIAMOND NINE RANKING

<p>A safe education means that the world's governments promise their armies will never attack a school.</p>	<p>A safe education means that schools are never used as military bases or stores.</p>	<p>A safe education means that all schools are built to withstand earthquakes and other natural hazards.</p>
<p>A safe education means that schools should act to stop all gender-based violence and discrimination against girls.</p>	<p>A safe education means that schools should have strong anti-bullying policies.</p>	<p>A safe education means that schools should have secure and hygienic toilets and washing facilities.</p>
<p>A safe education means that corporal (physical) punishment should never be used.</p>	<p>A safe education means that schools should promote equal rights for all children, including girls, LGBT+ young people, minorities and students with disabilities.</p>	<p>A safe education means that young people have a safe daily journey to and from school.</p>

