

Ethical Decision Making

We should all be aware of our values, attitudes and needs and how these impact on our professional relationships with children, young people, their families and partners. It is necessary for us to ensure we have a true sense of self that will not affect our ability to keep children at the centre of our practice.

Use the following prompts to explore, reflect, show your workings out and decisions:

1. Examine the facts. Gather all available information and/or evidence. Are there disagreements about the facts?
2. Examine whether an ethical dilemma exists. Are there Standards of Practice, policies or legislation that direct how to proceed? Am I trying to determine what is morally right or wrong? Are values and beliefs in conflict?
3. Examine relevant values. What are the values of the child, young person, their family, society and Bromley council? What are your professional and personal values?
4. Think about Practice Standards, relevant laws, policies and procedures that apply to this situation.
5. Hypothesise all possible decisions or options.
6. Identify the safety within each option.
7. Identify worries and risks within each option.
8. Views of children young people, their family, your manager and involved professionals.
9. Recording recommendation: record evidence of your decision-making process.
10. Outline timeframes for specific recommendations to be completed and state who is responsible to ensure accountability.
11. Additional notes.