

You Can... **Keep it calm in the corridors**

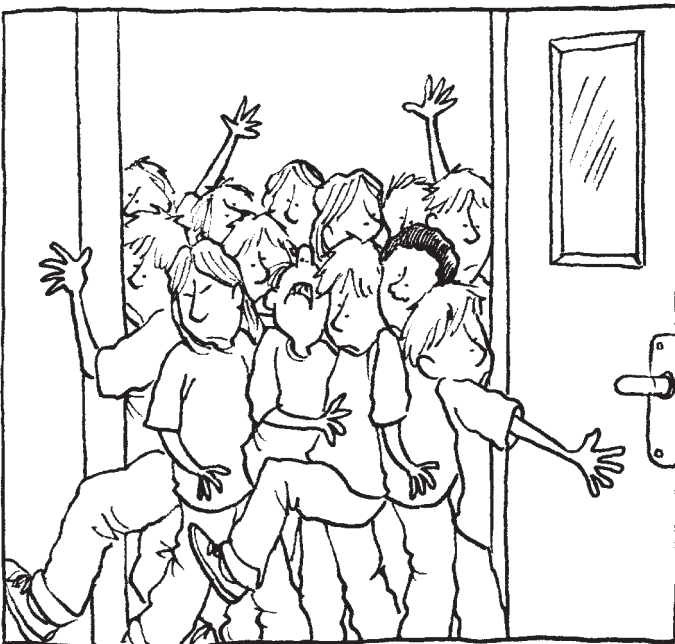
Although much of your time will be spent in your main classroom base, there will be a number of times during the average week when you wish to move your children from one part of the school to another. Keeping a sense of order in the corridors will help contribute to your overall ethos of calm.

Thinking points

- The way in which your pupils move through the corridors will influence the state of mind in which they arrive at lessons.
- A key time is when the children come into the school after a break. If the move from outside to inside is not well managed, time will inevitably be wasted in settling the children down when they arrive in the classroom.
- Young children are very easily influenced by the behaviour that they see from older pupils in a school. Where there is a culture of 'rough and tumble' around the school building, this can quickly percolate down the year groups.
- In an open-plan school, it is particularly important that the children know how to move calmly and quietly around the building. This is especially so when they are moving during lesson time.

Tips, ideas and activities

- It is a great idea to bring in a one-way system in your corridors, especially if space is tight. You might devise and introduce this new corridor system during lesson time, as part of a mathematics or design and technology project.
 - In mathematics, you might measure the width and length of the corridors, calculate the number of pupils passing through at certain times of day, construct frequency tables and so on.
 - In design and technology, you might generate and develop ideas for a new corridor design, coming up with ideas for suitable graphics to indicate the direction in which the pupils should move.
- Work out the 'flashpoints' in the corridors and ensure that these areas are supervised when pupil traffic is heavy. Typical problem areas include the top and bottom of stairs, blind corners and waiting places for access to canteens.
- Think laterally about how you might develop your corridors into more interesting and relaxing spaces. For instance, is there an unused corner where you could site a few chairs and display some interesting artwork? This might develop into a spot where the pupils can sit quietly during a wet playtime.



- Establish clear expectations about the way in which your children will move through the corridor. You might even have a short set of 'corridor rules', which apply right across the school. Consider what sanctions you are going to use if and when these rules are broken. Because the corridors are a communal space, a suitable sanction might take the form of a 'community order', whereby the children have to clean up litter.
- Harness your children's imagination when moving your class from one place in the school to another. For instance, ask them to move in slow motion, or as though they are walking on the moon.