

SEEDS OF CIVILITY

To Promote a Fair Exchange of Ideas

Civility is defined as caring for one's identity, needs and beliefs without degrading someone else's in the process (Institute for Civility in Government). The Town of Ellington, CT and the Ellington Public Schools recognize the value of civil discussion. Residents are encouraged to democratically participate in all community matters even when it may be uncomfortable. We live together and create together. To civilly compromise is to admirably evolve as a community.



We Promise To Promote a Fair Exchange of Ideas by Living the Following:

1 LISTEN, OBSERVE AND REFLECT

We will be careful and thoughtful seeking to understand first and then act with honor.

2 ASSUME GOOD INTENTIONS

We will engage with others, assuming their positions are for the greater good.

3 ALLOW FOR EMOTIONAL REACTIONS

We will recognize that conflict is challenging and can be emotional, and we will strive to respond with understanding.

4 SPEAK ONE'S TRUTH

We will communicate our truth as we know it and with respect even when others may react with anger.

5 FACE TO FACE

We will make every effort to engage others directly and not through social media which tends to make the conflict worse.

6 FIND SIMILARITIES, VALUE DIFFERENCES

We will recognize that similarities exist among all people, and we will respect our differences.

7 DEBATE THE ISSUE, RESPECT THE PERSON

We will recognize that we are all human beings trying to live a fulfilling life, and we will engage on issues and avoid personal criticism.

"So let us begin anew, remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof.

Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate.

Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us."

- JOHN F. KENNEDY



ENDORSED BY THE ELLINGTON BOARDS OF EDUCATION, FINANCE, AND SELECTMEN

