

WORKSHOP CONDUCTED BY MANAS FOUNDATION

Manas Foundation workshop for Grades 4 and 5 was conducted on 27th and 28th October 2022.

The workshop module on 'Enjoying our differences' was designed for Grade 4 students to be **sensitive and tolerant to diversity**, and further encouraging them to recognize and embrace their uniqueness. The workshop attempted to make children see how they are different from each other and how their behaviour varies based on these differences. The module urged children to open up about differences in their attributes, likes and physical features that they feel proud of. After discussion, a way was paved to share the consequences of how not accepting differences, led to 'bullying'.

The interaction instilled values of empathy, co-existence and acceptance; it encouraged students to create non-discriminatory and inclusive spaces. It also took into cognizance that impact of Covid-19 global pandemic has moved many students onto various online platforms which led to the creation of a digital divide, increasing a need for more diverse and inclusive virtual spaces



The Grade 5 workshop taught children different ways in which they could be **'socially responsible'** and **refrain from indulging in bullying** and even proactively stand up against bullying. This module encouraged students to be 'up-standers' and linked it to being 'socially responsible' as it taught students how inaction towards bullying is also an action to indirectly support it. The interaction identified the behaviours of bullying in a greater detail and even

picked up the theme of body shaming. It further pushed children to think on their feet to creatively combat bullying by placing them in plausible and relatable situations that have and can occur in their class.. It encouraged them to get together to form a system of social support for each other. This workshop helped inculcate leadership qualities to take up social responsibility just as they would take their personal responsibility.

