



## ACTIVITY: 'THE WORD FOR US'

**TIME:** 10 minutes  
**SIZE:** Pairs  
**SPACE:** Room for small groups to work  
**RESOURCES:** Paper, pens

**The aim** is to place students in a situation where they actively seek to bond to another person.

**The result** should be an understanding that Sense of Belonging can be strengthened at a fundamental level by seeking out qualities in others.

1. Break the class into pairs – try not to put good friends together.
2. Both students in each pair are to try and identify a strength that their partner possesses (e.g. determined, polite, funny, attentive). This strength should be a single word. Allow two minutes for this, after which each pair should write down the two 'strength summary' words they've selected.
3. The pairs now need to come up with a portmanteau word that combines those two 'strength summary' words. A portmanteau word is one that blends two others to create a new meaning, such as advertorial, camcorder, Brangelina).
4. You may choose to allow pairs that are struggling to revisit their strength summary words.
5. After two minutes, allow willing pairs to share their portmanteau words with the wider class, and explain why it is such a good 'word for us'.



## DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- Was it easy or hard to identify a strength in your partner? Why/why not? If you'd been asked to pick your own strength, would you have chosen the same one?
- Why do you think Sense of Belonging is strengthened when others identify your qualities?
- What were you thinking once you'd made your 'word'? How did that make you feel?
- Did you feel differently about your partner at the end of the activity to how you felt about them at the start? In what way?
- Why are good and evocative names so important to groups (e.g. businesses, charity groups, military units, schools, and universities)? How do these strengthen Sense of Belonging in those groups?