

## Case 4

### Case scenario:

Mr Chan believes that teachers nowadays need to build a close relationship with students in order to understand their genuine needs and help them grow healthily. Therefore, he treats students as friends. In addition to daily classroom teaching, he chats with them on campus and occasionally joins them in online games after school. He was on familiar terms with his students.

Tony Ho is a rather quiet and submissive student who has been nicknamed “Quail” by his classmates. Tony does not like this and tries to talk them out of it. However, they do not take it seriously, and one of them responds, “Come on, we’re all friends here.” This leaves Tony with a feeling of resignation.

One day, when chatting with some students about an online game after class, Mr Chan asks why Tony is not with them. A student replies, “Quail is doing research at the library today.” Mr Chan then asks why Tony is nicknamed “Quail”. The students chatter about Tony’s quiet and timid behaviour, comparing it to that of a quail. They consider it a friendly gesture to use the nickname, believing that Tony is accustomed to it. Since then, Mr Chan refers to Tony as “Quail” in his conversations with other students.

On another day, when school is over, Mr Chan sees a student trying to pull a prank on Tony in the corridor. He immediately approaches the student to stop him, saying “No pranks on Quail, got it? Just head on home after school!” Hearing this, the student laughs and walks away. Astonished by the mention of the nickname in Mr Chan’s words, Tony can only lower his head in silence as he does not know how to respond.

### Questions for discussion:

1. What are your thoughts on Mr Chan calling his student by the nickname?
2. Do you allow students to call teachers by their nicknames? Why?

**School-based review:**

Review the codes in connection with teacher-student relationships.

**Summary:**

- ✧ As role models for students, teachers should set a good example by showing respect to students and teach them to care about and respect others. Even seemingly innocuous words and deeds can inflict severe psychological harm on students.
  
- ✧ Teachers should uphold their professional image and exercise professional judgement. Nicknames should not be used as a form of address in teacher-student interactions for the sake of fostering good relationships.