

# ACCOUNTABILITY & CONSENT

Understanding and respecting your role on JET

# JAPAN EXCHANGE AND TEACHING PROGRAMME

The JET Programme is about more than just being an assistant teacher. The goal of JET is to “promote grass-roots exchange between Japan and other nations”

- *Exchange* is a very important part of the program
- Exchange = giving *and* receiving
- Not just promoting internationalization in the classroom but in the community
- You may be treated differently because you are “other” but that’s not always a bad thing



“Leadership is action, not position” – McGannon

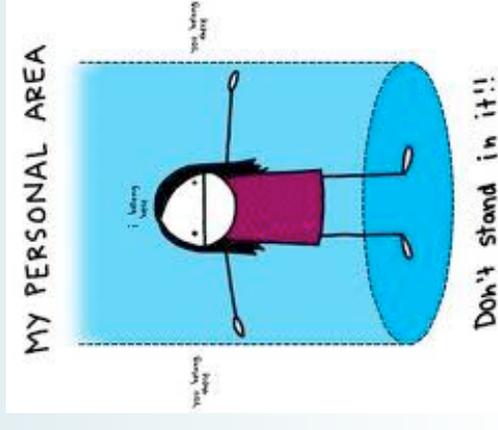
- Your role is one of leadership—both in the classroom and out.
- Your community will, for better or worse, be very interested in what you do, both as a teacher and as a new member of their area
- It is your responsibility to be conscious of the above and conduct yourself accordingly
- Every situation is different but the above is always true. Fair or not, JET is a government funded program and the way you act while on the program reflects on all members of JET

# ACCOUNTABILITY

- Because you are a leader in your community, and a representation of all Americans — may be unfair but is true
- Accountability is the acknowledgement and assumption of responsibility for your actions
- “I didn’t know” only goes so far —there are going to be many situations where you do not understand what is happening or you might not understand the consequences of something until after it happens
- Making mistakes is OK and will happen but you are also expected to take full responsibility for those
- Showing that you can do the above will earn you respect and trust
- Apologies in Japan do not automatically equal confession of wrong-doing

# BOUNDARIES

- Having said all that—you are allowed to have boundaries
- Boundaries are essential to a healthy lifestyle. Pushing them is encouraged and can lead to great opportunities but having them is important
- It is difficult to feel like you are “other” or under the microscope 24/7
- Set boundaries and adjust as needed
  - If you’re not comfortable with drinking at Enkais
  - Not going to every event you are invited to
  - Not telling your students (or teachers) information about personal life or relationship status if you don’t want to



# CONSENT

- Language and cultural barriers aside: “No” means “No”
  - sexually, professionally, and socially
- You are allowed to say “no”
  - There are things that can/will make you uncomfortable. Remember your boundaries and you always have the right to say “no”
    - Being on the news/newspaper for teaching
    - Attending parties (work or otherwise)
    - Drinking
    - Harassment (sexual, cultural, bullying etc)
- So are the people you work and interact with in Japan
- Japanese culture has a difficult time with hard “no”s
  - Asking your JTE or colleagues if you can do “X” and getting a “maaaa..” “chutto” or \*noise\*
- You may not agree with what your JTE says or how they run their classroom but ultimately, they are in charge

