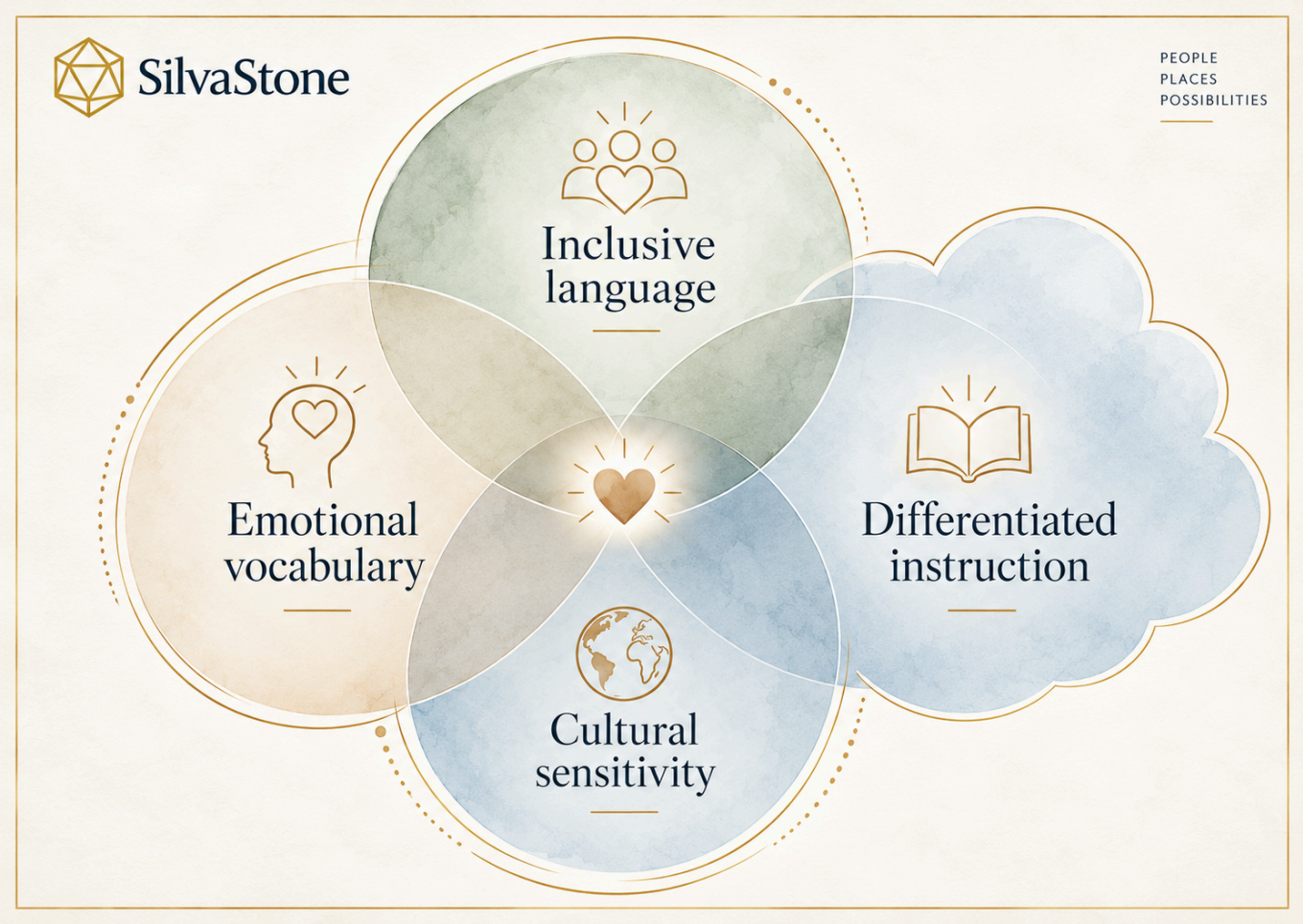
MODULE 9 · PRINTABLE MODEL

The compassionate classroom

Four ways compassion lives in the choice of language and pedagogy educators action



Compassion at the heart, expressed through four everyday practices of language and care.

THE MODEL, ELEMENT BY ELEMENT

What each element means

Compassion does not stay an idea; it shows up in how we speak, teach and welcome

Compassion is a response to another's experience, coupled with the will to act on it. In a classroom it becomes visible through language, in four connected practices. Each one alone is helpful; together, and held by genuine care, they make a room where every child feels recognised, understood and able to take part.

Inclusive language

Inclusive language practices give every child an equal opportunity to engage. We choose words that welcome rather than exclude, invite quieter voices in, and make sure no child is left on the edge of the conversation because of how, or how confidently, they speak. The message beneath the words is simple: you belong here, and your voice matters.

Differentiated instruction

Instruction is tailored to each child's language proficiency and needs, so learning is always within reach. We offer different ways in, visuals, scaffolds, home-language support, extra time, so that a child still acquiring the language of instruction can access the same rich thinking as everyone else, and is stretched, not stranded.

Cultural sensitivity

We weave diverse narratives, stories and perspectives into the curriculum, so every child sees their own heritage reflected and valued, and all children grow in understanding of one another. A culturally sensitive classroom does not ask a child to leave part of their identity at the door; it invites their whole self in.

Emotional vocabulary

We give children the words to name and articulate their feelings. When a child can say what they feel, they can begin to understand it, regulate it, and be understood by others. A shared emotional vocabulary turns big, confusing feelings into something that can be noticed, named and talked about together.

At the centre: compassion

At the heart of all four is compassion itself. It is what turns these practices from technique into care, and what connects them: inclusive language without warmth is only politeness; differentiation without compassion is only logistics. When compassion sits at the centre, the four practices become one thing, a classroom where every child is recognised, understood and knows they belong.