



Catholic Schools Week 2019

Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools

DAY 2: OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL: WELCOMING DIVERSITY

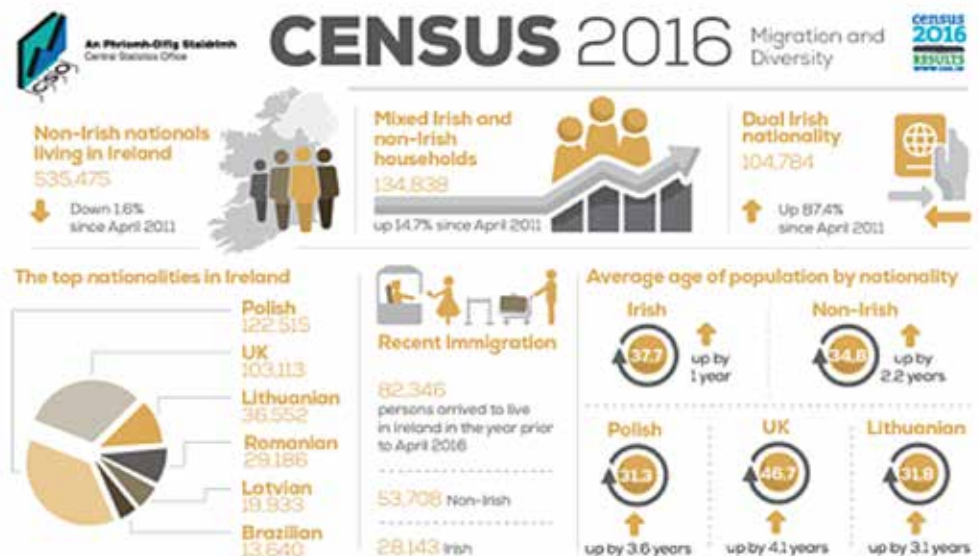
KEYWORDS:

Diversity Migration Welcome Community
Respect Nationalities Abilities Religions
Mission Statement Gospel Values

B

Brainstorm: What do you understand by the word 'Diversity'?

Following the Census 2016, the following data highlights the changes in diversity and migration.



(www.cso.ie)

R

Reflection: Take a moment to think about the nationalities in your class. What are the challenges a person of another nationality faces in Ireland today?

Pair activity: Ask your partner the following three questions (it does not matter if your partner is the same nationality as you):

1. In what ways do you feel welcome in our school community?
2. Identify some things that make you feel unwelcome in our school community. If you cannot identify them for yourself, think about what might make any student feel unwelcome in our school community.
3. What one thing are you going to do to make students from other nationalities feel welcome in our school community?



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D

Discussion: Share some of the information that you discovered by asking your partner the three questions with the rest of the class. Did any of the information you discovered cause you concern or make you think about how you treat others?

Numeracy Task: Gather data that will allow you to create a diagram representing the different nationalities in your school and also the percentage that each of these nationalities make up in your school community.

W

Watch: <https://youtu.be/iNKPFCW5JpA> (12:11 - show the first 9mins 11secs)

D

Discussion: This is a video clip from the World Meeting of Families which took place in Croke Park in August 2018. Discuss how this is an example of Ireland as a diverse society. In your copy record the ways in which this shows that Ireland is a diverse community.

Task

1. Individually, read the mission statement of your school. Highlight the words or phrases that show that your school is welcoming to people of all nationalities, religions and abilities.
2. In pairs discuss the words or phrases you highlighted. Compare your choices with each other.
3. As a class discuss if your mission statement shows that your school is welcoming to all students. Identify any areas that may need some work to ensure that every person that arrives at your school would feel welcome.
4. Using your school's mission statement and the discussion from your class, write your own version of the mission statement so that every member of the school community feels welcome, safe, cared for and loved.



(<http://coachjudynelson.com>)

Freedom Writers is the story of a diverse class in an American high school. At the beginning of the film we are told that this school is an example of an 'integrated school'. This is where students from all backgrounds were put into the one school. In this case, there were gangs of students placed in the same class were fighting each other on the streets. A new teacher, Erin Gruwell, played by Hilary Swank, is given a freshman English class that are very divided. She works very hard to gain their trust and shows them the respect that they deserve, which was not the case before Ms Gruwell arrived. Watch the following video clip from the movie.

W

Watch: <https://youtu.be/9f8liieRepk> (2:30)

This video clip shows that the students are no longer fighting with one another. They have become a family where each student feels valued and safe.

D



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D **Discuss:** Discuss what Gospel values Ms Gruwell must have shown to her students in order to reach the point where all the students are getting along. Do you think that living our lives out of Gospel values would result in a community where everyone feels welcome? What would it take for you to be able to say 'I am home' in your school community?

Read the following biblical passages:

Galatians 3:28

Revelation 7: 9-10

1 Corinthians 12: 12-14

D **Discussion:** Having read these passages, what does this tell you about how Jesus saw diversity?

Written reflection: In your copy, make a list of the things we can learn from these biblical passages.

Extension exercise: In the publication *Share the Good News*, it is stated that 'For the Church, newcomers are a gift and a challenge.' What do you think this statement means?

