



Catholic Schools Week 2020

Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God's Creation



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:
LIVING IN HARMONY
WITH GOD'S CREATION

26 JANUARY – 2 FEBRUARY 2020



Friday: Living in Harmony In Our Catholic School

31 January 2020

Keywords:

Solidarity, History, Heritage, Respect, Support, Acceptance, Environment, Diversity, Inclusion, Action, Responsibility, Love, Faith, Impact, Welcome, Mission



Mission Statement: Do you know what the mission statement of your school is? Here is a mission statement from a Dominican girls' school.

Our mission: to provide our students with an education that in the spirit of St Dominic:

- recognises and responds to the unique needs and abilities of each individual student;
- encourages the development of positive, respectful and inclusive relationships;
- and challenges each student to speak with honesty and integrity.

Group Work: For this exercise, you will need a copy of your own school's mission statement. (It is probably in your school diary or journal if your school uses one. It will also probably be on the school website.) In groups, investigate the following questions.

Does the mission statement mention the founder/s of your school? How much do you know about the founder? For example, do you know when and where they were born?


Underline or highlight in one colour the key verbs in the statement. For example, the key verbs in the example given are: provides, recognises, responds, encourages and challenges.

Underline or highlight in another colour any other important words or phrase: for example, unique needs and abilities.

Extension activity: For homework or further research, find out about the founder/s of your school. What were the priorities that motivated them?

What do you think their priorities would be today?





'The Catholic school is a Christian community where every pupil is valued equally and given a genuine experience of belonging.'

Guidelines on the Inclusion of Students of Other Faiths in Catholic Secondary Schools, Aiveen Mullally (JMB/AMCSS, 2010)

Activity: Look back on the words you have highlighted from the school mission statement and the statement of inclusion from the last slide.

Brainstorm in pairs all the different ways the school respects individuals, builds relationships, tries to act with fairness towards others and so on.

Some examples: Anti-Bullying Committee, School Council, fundraising for Trócaire. Compile a list from all the different pairs.

Are there any ways which as a class you can contribute to making the school a more inclusive and Christian place?



Catholic Schools' Week Challenge:

Consider taking the Catholic Schools' Week Challenge as a class, or better again, as a school.

Create paper chains where each strip represents a good deed. There are lists of good deeds on the next page.

You can find a Google doc copy here: just click on 'make a copy'.
<https://bit.ly/2jYzo6H>

Numeracy moment: Keep track of the number of good deeds that people do as a class and as a school (if it is a school-wide event).





Take the Catholic Schools' Week Harmony Challenge! Try to do as many of the following challenges as possible.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK **HARMONY CHALLENGE**

- Put a small but pleasant surprise in someone's backpack or locker
- **Help at home without being asked**
- Pick up three pieces of rubbish and put them in the bin
- **Visit or phone an elderly person (with parental permission)**
- Smile at five people in one day
- **Write a thank-you note and post it**
- Listen to a friend without interrupting
- **Tell someone a joke**
- Pay four people a compliment over the week
- **Pray for someone**
- Say 'please', 'thank you' and 'I'm sorry' more often
- **Give some money to a charity**
- Donate clothes to a charity shop
- **Avoid all single-use plastic this week**
- Attend Mass or a religious service and focus on praying for others
- **Send an email to someone to show your appreciation or thanks.**
- Hold a door open for someone
- **Bake or buy something for friends or family**
- Light a candle for someone
- **Count your blessings every day**
- Have an internet-free day
- **Cut out junk food for a week**
- Avoid wasting food this week
- **Put your mobile phone away when someone wants to talk to you**
- Express appreciation to a teacher
- **Talk to someone new in your class or year**
- Point out people's good points when others are criticising them
- **Take public transport, cycle or walk somewhere instead of asking parents/guardians for a lift. (Make sure your parents/guardians are aware and that they see it as safe.)**

