

# EXPLORING CULTURAL

# DIVERSITY

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACTIVITY SHEET

This activity sheet has been produced by the Equality Commission and is intended to provide a first step approach for teachers to begin to explore issues of cultural diversity in the classroom. The sheet contains a list of suggested activities which can be undertaken in the classroom which involve either short exercises or activities which can take place over a longer period of time. A list of useful resource websites and additional information is contained on the reverse of the sheet.

- Design your own cultural awareness posters or hold a school poster competition and create slogans to accompany them. These could be used to form a display in a public space within the school where it can be seen by visitors and parents. You may wish to publicise the exhibition in the school newsletter or website.
- Show a short film about ethnic exclusion, children from different world religions or locally based ethnic minorities. Afterwards, discuss the effects of exclusion as well as the importance of respecting difference.
- Hold a competition to make up a song or a poem to celebrate cultural diversity and display in a prominent position within the school or classroom.
- Have a multi-cultural table in the classroom where the children can bring in something that reflects cultural diversity. Use other positive images to promote cultural awareness and diversity using photographs, posters and other visual image mediums.
- Divide the children into small groups and have them discuss why people have to migrate from one country to another and whether their own families have experience of migration.
- Invite a minority ethnic group to visit your classroom or school to talk about their experiences or organise a visit to a local minority ethnic centre to introduce the children to intercultural issues.
- Read popular children's stories or myths and legends from a range of world cultures and create an information bank or library on cultural diversity issues.
- Annual feast days provide a good opportunity to introduce children to different cultures. Use Intercultural Week 2006 to plan a yearly calendar of the annual feast days of different cultures.

# FUR+HER INFoRMATIoN

Education for Citizenship in Northern Ireland

[www.globalgateway.org.uk](http://www.globalgateway.org.uk)

Teachers Resources on Citizenship

[www.globalgateway.org.uk](http://www.globalgateway.org.uk)

Young People and Citizenship

[www.globalgateway.org.uk](http://www.globalgateway.org.uk)

Interlinks - a resource tool for schools (key stage 2 pupils) in Northern Ireland on mutual understanding and cultural heritage.

[www.interlinksonline.org](http://www.interlinksonline.org)

Racial Equality in Education – Good Practice Guide

[www.equalityni.org/uploads/pdf/RaceEqualEd.pdf](http://www.equalityni.org/uploads/pdf/RaceEqualEd.pdf)

An anti-racism pack for primary teachers in Ireland:  
An Inter-cultural approach

[www.tcd.ie/Education/Teachers\\_Pack/index.html](http://www.tcd.ie/Education/Teachers_Pack/index.html)

Raising Awareness of Diversity and Racism – An activity pack for schools and youth workers

[www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org)

NSPCC Kids Zone - Information on Bullying

[www.nspcc.org.uk/kidszone/bullying.htm](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/kidszone/bullying.htm)

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