

Foreword

True peace is more than the absence of war; it requires the presence of justice and care. Without these basic core values, there can be no real or lasting peace. And this is why these assemblies rightly range across topics which include campaigns for justice and human rights as well as nonviolence, peace and reconciliation. These are the building blocks of humane, tolerant and inclusive societies. In fact, there are those who are now using the term ‘just peace’ to mean exactly this.

Most teachers would agree that genuinely ‘peaceful schools’ are institutions in which there is an ethos of calm and care for all, in which mutual respect for persons allows respect for learning to grow. A school as a place of learning is most effective when its members can flourish as human beings, as individuals and as members of the community. In this way, this pack supports the work of the school in supporting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC).

Children develop socially and morally in a number of ways – through seeing, thinking, feeling and acting. These assemblies provide powerful opportunities for the children to think in thoughtful, reflective ways around some of the fundamental issues about how we live together. Children also learn from their surroundings, from identifying with the values of people they like, admire and trust. As teachers we must model the values of justice and care in our lives and then we will see them flourish in our classrooms and schools.

Don Rowe

Founding member of the Citizenship Foundation, author and researcher

Acknowledgments

The inspiration for this resource came about through the concern of one grandmother. With the advent of Armed Forces Day, the expansion of combined cadet forces in schools, and the increasing role of the armed forces in education, she was worried that war commemorations and celebrations were leaving no room for peace at her granddaughter’s school.

This resource has been created by the following members of the peace education network, and produced by Quakers in Britain.



**PAX
CHRISTI**
International Catholic Movement for Peace



peacemakers

