

LIVE LIFE TO THE **MAX!**

A lesson for 10-14 year-olds about homelessness and The Sandwich People project at Booth House, Swindon

Curriculum links in England

KS2 Religious Education

Reflect on ideas of right and wrong and their own and others' responses to them; how people's beliefs about God, the world and others impact on their lives; how religions and beliefs respond to global issues of human rights, fairness, social justice

- QCA Unit 5D - How do the beliefs of Christians influence their actions?

Curriculum links can also be made to - PSHE, Geography and Citizenship (England); The World Around Us and Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (Northern Ireland); Social, Personal and Health Education (Republic of Ireland); Religious and Moral Education and Personal and Social Development (Scotland); Personal and Social Education and Religious Education (Wales)

KS3 Religious Education

Investigate the impact of religious beliefs and teachings on individuals, communities and societies, the reasons for commitment and the causes of diversity; evaluate how religious beliefs and teachings inform answers to ultimate questions and ethical issues; evaluate beliefs, commitments and the impact of religion in the contemporary world.

- QCA Unit 7B - What does justice mean to Christians?
- QCA Unit 8C - Beliefs and practice (generic)

KS3 Citizenship

- QCA Unit 03 - Human rights

Curriculum links can also be made to - PSHE, Geography and Citizenship (England); Local & Global Citizenship and Personal Development (Northern Ireland); Religious Education and Social, Personal and Health Education (Republic of Ireland); Religious and Moral Education and Personal and Social Development (Scotland); Personal and Social Education and Religious Education (Wales)

Aims

- To consider how there can be a positive side to homelessness
- To understand how The Sandwich People project is having a positive effect on the people involved

Resources

You will need:

- Link 40 DVD or YouTube clip <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n05gteR44pk> (Part 1) and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aj5Gji15m8> (Part 2)
- Computer/DVD player and projector/screen
- Large sheets of flip-chart paper and marker pens

Downloadable:

- 'Hidden homelessness' PowerPoint presentation

Optional/extra resources

- Bread and a variety of sandwich fillings

For advice or help with any of the resources mentioned, phone or email the Schools & Colleges Unit, Monday to Friday 8.30am-5.00pm.

If you are not familiar with the children in the class, it would be a good idea to talk the activities through with a teacher prior to the lesson taking place. Homelessness is a very sensitive issue and it is possible that children in the class may have been affected either directly or indirectly by it.



Welcome and starter

Introduce yourself to the children if you are visiting and explain that you will be thinking about what it means to be homeless and what effect being homeless can have on people. Ensure that each group has a large piece of flip-chart paper and marker pens.

What comes into your mind when you think of homelessness? (Give the children time in their groups to note down words on their large pieces of paper.) Encourage them to consider how people would feel, where they might stay, what they might eat etc. Take time to discuss with the children their perceptions and what words they have come up with. Encourage them that nothing is wrong or incorrect. We all have perceptions of what it means to be homeless, and if we have never experienced it ourselves we can only rely on what we have seen on the television or read in a book.

Secondly, ask the children to rate on a scale of 1 to 10 how happy they think a homeless person would be and how good their life would be. With 1 being the worst/most unhappy life and 10 being the best/happiest life, share with each other as a class what number you would give. You could set out a scale across the floor or along a wall and get children to stand at their number.

Explain that today we will be challenging our ideas of homelessness and considering the positive effects it can have.

Activity 1: Hidden homelessness

Using the downloadable PowerPoint presentation, look at the photographs showing different types of homelessness as a whole class. Introduce the activity by telling the children that you are going to look at some images and they have to decide whether they think they show us something about homelessness or not. You could encourage the children to vote in different ways such as putting their hands up, moving to a space or holding up their answer on a mini whiteboard. The truth is that they all show an aspect of homelessness but in different ways and the pupils may be surprised at what the images teach them.

Explain to the children that many people have a negative view of homelessness. Many imagine people sleeping on the streets with little food and clothes, and although this is a very real side of homelessness there is also a really positive side to it where people are encouraged to start again. As well as finding a new home (temporary or permanent), many take the opportunity to forget the past and begin a new life, regaining their confidence, learning new skills and finding a new job. It is this positive side of homelessness that we are going to look at today.

Activity 2: The Sandwich People

Either contact the Schools & Colleges Unit for a copy of the 'Link 40' DVD or watch the two clips on YouTube (links can be found above).

Background info: The Sandwich People is a project based at a Salvation Army hostel called Booth House in Swindon. Here a team of volunteers (mostly residents) are involved in a social enterprise project making sandwiches and salads to sell to local businesses. They produce in the region of 80 fresh sandwiches/salads each day and deliver them to workplaces for people to buy.

Explain to the children that you are going to watch the video clip of The Sandwich People and that you would like them to record their thoughts under the following headings (perhaps they could record them in their books or on mini whiteboards):

The Salvation Army (UK & Ireland Territory)
Schools & Colleges Unit
Tel: 020 7367 4706 Fax: 020 7367 4728
Email: schools@salvationarmy.org.uk

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/schools

Registered Charity No. 214779, and in Scotland SC009359



- What surprises you about what you have seen
- How you think the volunteers will benefit from being involved with the project
- How you think Booth House will benefit from the project
- Anything that you would like to know more about or any questions that you have

After watching the clips, give the children time to share their responses as a class and consider any questions that they may have. Discuss how The Sandwich People is benefiting the volunteers and how training and qualifications gained at The Sandwich People can give them new confidence and self-esteem. This may make their experience of living in a hostel community a more positive one and could give them a better chance of finding employment.

Discussion: Living life to the max

As a Christian organisation, The Salvation Army is committed to giving people who have become homeless the best possible opportunity to find a new home as well as gain new skills. The Salvation Army believes that residents at Booth House and at all of its centres, regardless of their past, deserve a second chance.

In the Bible, there is a verse which Jesus spoke when he was here on this earth and it says:

'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10, *New International Version*).

Ask the children what they think Jesus means when he talked about coming so that people may have life, and have it to the full. We can think of it as 'living life to the max' and encourage the children in their groups to jot down some ideas of what this would mean for them. What activities would they do? What food would they eat? Where would they travel to? How would they spend an ideal day?

Jesus promised a life full of promise and hope and this is what The Salvation Army is trying to bring to residents and volunteers at Booth House. In what some people may think of as a hopeless situation, The Sandwich People projects aims to turn this around for good.

When we think of homelessness as an entirely negative situation, it is like the thief Jesus mentions in the verse above, coming to steal and kill and destroy people's dreams and ambitions. Ask the children who this thief is, and explain that as a Christian organisation The Salvation Army is fighting against this thief and we can see this hope displayed in The Sandwich People project.

Suggested activities

- Design a poster advertising The Sandwich People to send to new businesses, hoping to attract new customers, or write a letter explaining who The Sandwich People are and what the project is trying to achieve. If possible, you could also consider designing a website for them.
- Make sandwiches and salads to sell to other pupils in the school, perhaps raising money for The Salvation Army's Booth House centre in Swindon or another Salvation Army project.
- Choose another Social Enterprise project to start in the school. Encourage the children to set it up as a business, assigning roles and tasks. What new skills can be learnt? Can certificates of participation be given to those who participate? What will the profits go towards?



Plenary activity

Explain to the children that you want them to think back to the starter activity where you rated on a scale of 1 to 10 how happy they think a homeless person would be and how good their life would be. Encourage them to reflect on what they have learnt today about The Sandwich People project. What has surprised them? Would they now change the score they gave on the scale in the starter activity? Will they now view homelessness differently?

Perhaps you could set up a scale on the floor or along a wall across the classroom and get the children to stand at the appropriate number to reflect how they felt at the beginning of the lesson and to compare it with their score at the end.

Follow-up ideas

- Contact your local Salvation Army church or centre to arrange a follow-up lesson or assembly. Find the contact details at www.salvationarmy.org.uk/findacentre or contact the Schools & Colleges Unit.
- Find out more about The Sandwich People project at www.salvationarmy.org.uk/sandwichpeople. Perhaps you could write a letter to them explaining the work that you have done on the project or asking any further questions that the pupils may have.

