

about the homelessness zone

Overview

In this zone pupils reflect on what it might be like to be homeless and find out how The Salvation Army tries to help. They begin by thinking about what makes a home and what they think is important in a home. Whilst acknowledging that people can be homeless in different ways, the main activities in this zone focus on people who live on the street. Pupils create a dramatic 'freeze-frame' scene to explore different attitudes and responses to homeless people, and build their own living space. A selection of objects and an optional DVD clip showing a Salvation Army Lifehouse help pupils to understand different ways in which The Salvation Army supports people who are homeless.

Setting up

If you're feeling creative, construct a simple street scene for this zone, with a wall and/or shop doorway, pavement, lamppost etc. Arrange the cardboard boxes, newspapers etc as they might be found on a street (eg in a rubbish bin/ready for collection) so that they are ready to be used for the 'build a shelter' activity.

Resources provided

- Homelessness zone A3 sign
- Display stand for A3 sign (green)
- Picture of homelessness A4 card
- What makes a home? cards (Key Stage 1)
- What makes a home? cards (Key Stage 2)
- Listening ear
- Picture of a Lifehouse/flat
- Matthew 25 A3 card
- DVD Clip: A Salvation Army Lifehouse
- 54321 number cards
- KS1/2 homelessness scripts (download from USB or check the website for the latest version)

You may also need

- Cardboard boxes, newspapers, a blanket, dustbin bags (full of newspaper or empty), a few coins etc for building a shelter/living space
- Empty cardboard box for items below (and some above)
- New toiletries, eg shower gel/toothbrush
- Torch/radio
- Sleeping bag/blanket
- Shoes
- Clothes and new socks
- Plate/food
- TV/DVD player

Adapting the zone

- Make the zone shorter:
It may be difficult to deliver this zone in a meaningful and in-depth way if time is very limited. However, there are a number of ways to save time and speed up the zone. For example, use the introductory 'What makes a home?' activity as a simple question for reflection and discussion rather than using the cards. For Key Stage 2, choose either the freeze-frame or build a shelter activity.
- Make the zone longer:
Use all the activities! There are also extra activities in the pupil book.
- Whole class session:
There are a variety of activities in this zone and, providing you have good amount of space, they would work well as a whole class workshop. The activities in the pupil book would allow pupils to reflect on what they have learnt.

