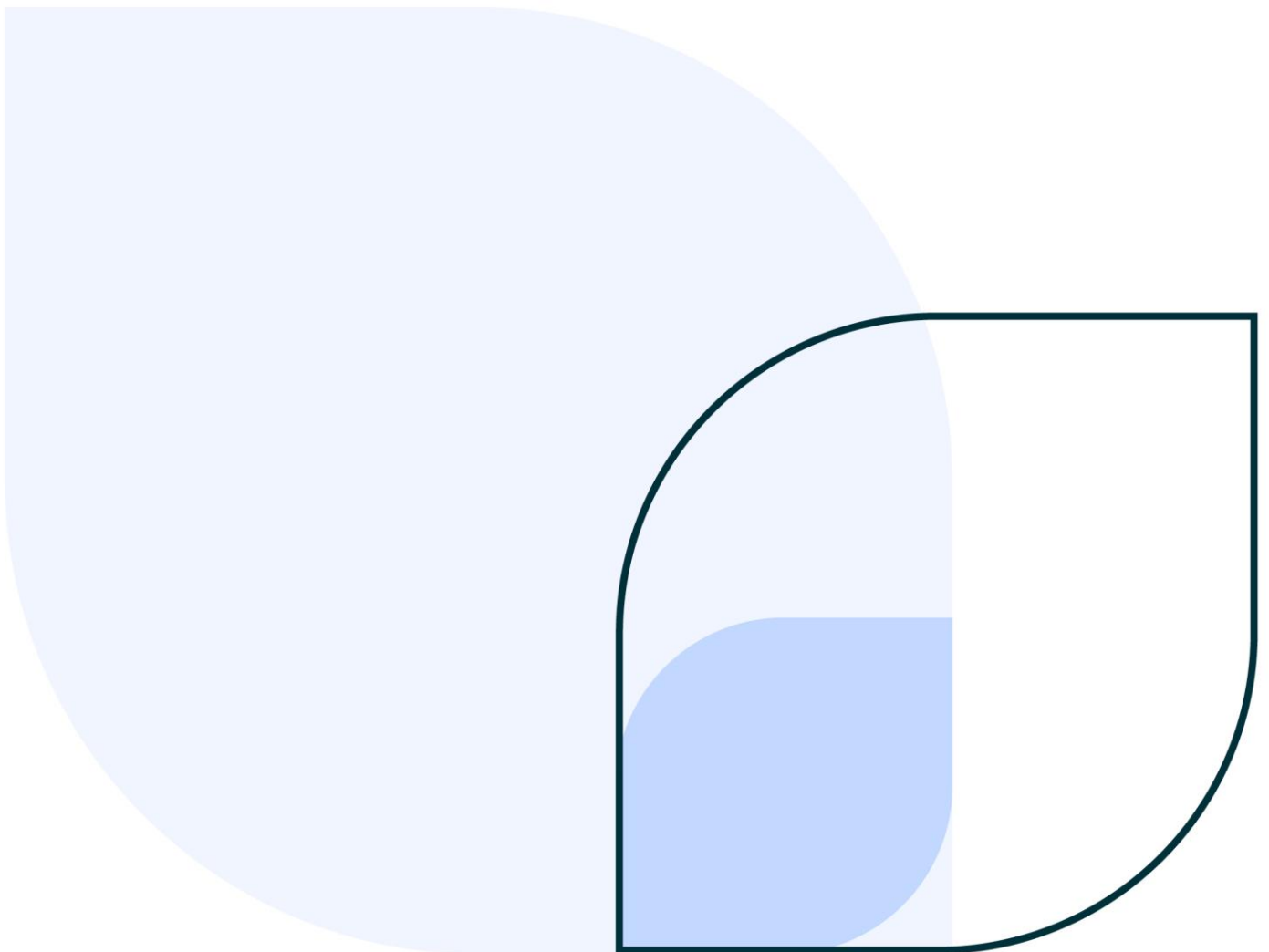


Collective Worship

Primary School Resources
Reflecting God's Love: Celebrating Diversity and Seeking Justice





Key Concept / Message

Introduction

Race Equality Week 2025 3rd - 9th Feb 2025

Today, we gather to reflect on Race Equality Week, a time dedicated to raising awareness of racial inequality and celebrating the value of diversity in our world. Race equality is not just about fairness; it's about creating a society where every person is treated with dignity, respect, and justice, regardless of their background or ethnicity.

Race Equality Week is an opportunity to go beyond mere tolerance. It challenges us to actively engage in understanding and embracing the richness of different cultures, experiences, and perspectives. In a world where racial prejudice and discrimination continue to affect many lives, the need for equality and inclusion is more urgent than ever. This week encourages us to reflect on the progress we've made, while also acknowledging the work still to be done.

The week was established to create a platform for open dialogue, reflection, and action. It provides an opportunity for individuals, schools, and communities to come together and consider how we can identify and break down the barriers of racial injustice and inequality. By focusing on race equality, we commit to fostering environments where people from all backgrounds are welcomed, valued, and given the same opportunities to thrive.

Race Equality Week is a reminder that equality is not just a legal or political issue—it is a moral one. We are all called to challenge prejudice, speak out against racism, and work together to build a more just society. As we reflect on the importance of race equality this week, let us consider our role in making the world a better place for everyone, regardless of the colour of their skin, their culture, or their identity.

Slide 1

Slide Imagery: Title of Collective Worship and pictures of diverse children holding hands around the bible verse Gen 1:27.

Begin with your usual greeting to gather everyone together. As children enter worship, a reflective piece of music can be played to set the tone, such as [Pavane, Gabriel Fauré](#).

Gathering

Prepare the worship area with a prayer. You may like to start with an opening prayer, such as this one:

Slide 2

Dear God,

Thank You for making each one of us unique and special.

Help us to love one another as You love us.

Teach us to see the beauty in all people and to treat everyone with kindness and fairness.



In Jesus' name, we pray,
Amen.

Slide 3

Race Equality Week helps us think about why it is important to treat everyone fairly.

Race Equality Week is a time to think about how we treat each other, celebrate our differences, and make sure everyone feels special. Christians believe that God made every person unique and special, and so everyone should celebrate this gift together.

“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Gen 27:1

This passage underpins the Christian belief that all people - regardless of their ethnicity, race, or gender—are made in the image of God. It highlights the view that it is not a privilege that should be given to some and denied to others. As such, every individual, regardless of their skin colour or background, has inherent dignity and worth in God's eyes.

This concept is revolutionary because it challenges the divisions and prejudices that exist in our world. If all people are made in God's image, then we are all equal in His sight. There is no room for discrimination or exclusion. Each person we encounter—whether in school, at work, or in our communities—reflects the image of God and, therefore, deserves to be treated with respect, kindness, and love.

Slide 4

Quote from Nelson Mandela: "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of their skin, background, or religion."

Approach this slide sensitively. You might frame it as: "*Did you know that no one is born with unkind thoughts about others? We all learn how to love, care, and treat people with kindness.*"

How is this important when thinking about racial equality?

Engagement

Slide 5

You can pose these questions to the children and young people, unpacking the Christian belief that God made everyone in His image.

1. I wonder how this helps us to treat everyone fairly
2. I wonder why it's important to understand that God loves everyone the same

Additional questions for extension:

3. I wonder how we can show we care about our friends and classmates from different places.
4. I wonder how we can be kind to someone who has been treated unfairly.
5. I wonder why it's important to be patient and fair to everyone.



Teachers' note: As you lead the discussion, ensure all students feel heard and respected. Encourage empathy, kindness, and patience, especially with those who may feel left out or different. Cultivate an environment where every voice matters, and diversity is celebrated.

Slide 6

Learning and unlearning

You can engage children and young people in the act of learning and unlearning by teaching them simple habits like learning their timetables (image Timetable Rock Stars), riding a bicycle, or learning another language (Duolingo image).

Just as we learn our timetables or a new language, we can also learn to be intentionally kind to others—especially those who may seem different from us. As Nelson Mandela said, 'No one is born hating another person because of the color of their skin, background, or religion.' Therefore, it is through intentional acts of kindness in society that divisions can begin to be overcome.

Response

Slide 8

Learning to treat everyone fairly all the time

Think about how you could show fairness to someone who isn't always treated fairly. Learning to be fair can make our school a happier place. Showing fairness can change someone's day.

Slide 9

Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for this time together to learn about treating one another fairly and standing up for what is right. Help us to celebrate our differences and work together for peace and fairness in our world. Amen.



Spiritual Development - EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

[Practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home and school together](#)

EXAMEN prayer: Use the EXAMEN prayer to pray for a fairer society for all.

It has five steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. Thank you that you love everyone equally
2. Help me to see each and every person through your eyes
3. Help me to recognise when I have not been fair or kind
4. May I always try to treat everyone fairly
5. May I show your love in all I do. Amen

The "Fairness Tree" Prayer Space

At School: Provide a paper tree with blank leaves. Ask children to write or draw what fairness means to them or how they can act fairly towards others. Add the leaves to the tree as a display.

At Home: Create a "fairness jar" where family members share daily examples of fair actions they've seen or done, thanking God for fairness in the world.

Steps Towards Fairness Reflection Path

At School: Create a path of stepping stones with questions or prompts, such as "How can I include others?" or "What can I do when something feels unfair?" Children step along the path while thinking or praying.

At Home: Draw or create stepping stones with paper. As a family, discuss actions that reflect fairness in daily life.

The Fairness Flower Craft

At School: Each child creates a petal for a large paper flower, writing one way to be fair to others. Combine the petals into a beautiful shared display.

At Home: Create a smaller flower with family members, adding petals as you discuss fair actions taken during the week.



Collective Worship – Our approach

Invitational

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

Inclusive

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is ‘what Christians believe’, saying things like:

‘I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?’

‘The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...’

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

Inspiring

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?