

A NATURAL SYMBOL FOR YOUR SCHOOL LINK

'We Jesuits, then, find our identity not alone but in companionship: in companionship with the Lord, who calls, and in companionship with others who share this call.' GC 35, Decree 2.3

'The world is round so that friendship may encircle it.' Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

'A partnership makes the world a joyful place. It shows trust, care and love. A partnership makes us.' Giobhan, St. Cecilia Primary School, UK

Aims

- To reflect about the concept of companionship and school partnership.
- To work together and to focus on the environment.
- To create a symbol for your school link.
- To increase awareness of differences in local environments.

Instructions

There are two ways of creating a symbol for the Companions Programme together with your partner school:

1. At a distance

- One of the schools brainstorms and discusses about the meaning of the word 'companionship', and images and thoughts that can be associated with their school partnership. Feel free to use the quotes above to start a discussion. Thoughts and images are sent to the partner school.
- The partner school chooses to develop one of the concepts produced by school one to create a symbol. Using nature as inspiration, students gather natural or recycled materials to create a 2 or 3 dimensional companionship symbol from those materials. They send a photo of the symbol to the partner school.
- The first school reconstructs the symbol using local natural or recycled material.
- Symbols can be swapped and materials used can be compared. Students can also accompany the symbol with descriptions of the material used and the natural environment around them.

2. Together during a school visit

- Groups from both schools brainstorm and discuss together about the concept of companionship.
- Together, they create a symbol for their companionship using natural or recycled materials.

Tip

Display the symbol and any related information can in the schools' communal areas to involve and spread awareness of the partnership within the whole school community.

