

## Reflection and evaluation session

To be held towards the end of international school visits to reflect jointly about learning and steps ahead

### *For whom*

*Host teachers, towards the end of an international school visit*

### *Duration*

*About one hour*

1. Begin with words of **welcome**. It is suggested you do not start with a prayer - start with the human and familiar and lead them to a moment of prayer at the end.

### 2. **The Ignatian Prelude**

a) Start with a moment of stillness - feet on floor, eyes closed.

b) Bring to mind all the things with which you are busy at the moment, name and acknowledge them, then set them to one side for the next hour.

c) Articulate what it is you want and desire from this session.

d) (If you are a believer:) Ask God to be present to us now.

3. Hold a **brainstorming session** about the learning that happened during the visit. All teachers are welcome to participate, including the hosts. If the group is big or the participants are not particularly vocal, invite them to write their thoughts on post-its. Otherwise, invite them to reflect for a couple of minutes and then to communicate their thoughts in plenary.

*What I've learnt during the visit, especially around teaching and education...*

*What my school is / I am very good at, that my partner school can learn from ...*

Tip: teachers can sometimes be shy about what they are proud of. As a prompt, you could ask 'What do you think teachers from your partner school have learnt (or would learn) when they visited your school?'. Teachers who visited schools in the global South mentioned that they were struck by: the independence of pupils (taking care of younger siblings, cleaning up the school grounds, etc.), pupils' excellent hand-writing, active storytelling/theatre skills, a sense of pride in own school, agricultural projects, creativity and ingenuity, music and dance abilities...

*New ideas.../Something I would like to improve in the future...*

4. Suggest teachers to select one or two **areas for improvement** during the forthcoming months and, as homework, ask them to identify steps that can guide them in that direction. You can then present educational material to the whole group, for example the educational booklets created by JM on sustainable living (primary) and peace education (secondary), that can be requested at [education@jesuitmissions.org.uk](mailto:education@jesuitmissions.org.uk) , prompts for joint reflection such as the Jesuit Pupil profile (<http://jesuitinstitute.org/Pictures/JPPTagcloudLARGE.png>), or other educational activities you would like to do together in the future. Also invite the host teachers to present ideas for future curriculum exchange.

5. **Conclusion.** Finish session with ‘**The Lesson**’<sup>1</sup>, a meditation by Anthony de Mello. Suggest to teachers to close their eyes and relax before reading the mediation.

#### The Lesson

Jesus says, ‘The Kingdom is like a mustard seed which a man sowed in his field. Mustard is smaller than any other seed but let it grow and it becomes bigger than any garden plant; it is like a tree, big enough for the birds to come and nest among its branches.’

I hold the tiniest of seeds  
In the hollow of my hand...  
Then I see the full-grown tree it has become,  
Strong enough to bear the nests of birds.

I move from seed to tree repeatedly in fantasy.

I then observe the seed  
Through each stage of its growth.

Finally I sit in front of the full grown tree  
And I speak to it:

We talk about the theme of *smallness*,  
The tree and I...  
About *discouragement*...  
*Risk-taking* in our lives...  
*Change* and all that it implies...  
*Fruitfulness*...  
*Service*...  
And, finally,  
*God’s power in our lives.*

I end this exercise at Jesus’ feet:  
I tell him what the mustard seed has taught me  
And ask that he will teach me too.

6. **Follow-up.** We strongly recommend to hold another session, later on, to draft an action plan for future curriculum exchange, based on the ideas and input presented during this session.

*Gioia Caminada, Jesuit Missions 2014*

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<sup>1</sup> From the book ‘Wellsprings: A book of Spiritual Exercises’, A. de Mello SJ.