



## Companions in Action

### Sent in Global Network

### Ideas for Cultural Exchange

The Society of Jesus came into being in 1540. The group of men who had first gathered together under the inspiration of Ignatius of Loyola in Paris termed themselves the Companions of Jesus. This new religious order emerged in a time of great change, adventure and challenge. It was the age of the Renaissance, the Reformation and the Age of Discovery. In the first few years of its existence members of the Society, including Francis Xavier and Matteo Ricci, were participating in an unprecedented era of exploration, encountering new people, new cultures and new ways of entering into the Good News of Jesus.

Like that of Ignatius, our time in history faces many challenges, including war, poverty and the environmental crisis. Companions in Action seeks to promote global citizenship by providing participating schools with partnership links that will help us to come together to work for change and toward a world where no one is left out and where the God-given dignity of all is celebrated.

Below follow some ideas to help your school start this new adventure.

#### I. Before your first weblink

- Go onto the Educate Magis, Connecting Classrooms, EcoJesuit and Ignatian Solidarity Network websites for a wealth of inspiring and useful materials!

<https://www.educatemagis.org/global-citizenship-classroom/>

<https://connecting-classrooms.britishcouncil.org/what-is-connecting-classrooms>

<http://www.ecojesuit.com/>

<https://ignatiansolidarity.net/resources/>

- Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9q1u1foZfek&feature=youtu.be>
- Decide which staff and students are to take a leading role in Companions in Action
- Read the Aims and Way of Proceeding and Guidelines documents to make certain that everyone knows what Companions in Action IS and ISN'T about
- Brainstorm! How would you like to take the partnership forward? Are there any areas that you want to focus on? All schools are asked to include Caring for our Common Home and Sent in a Global Network (The Rio Papers) as key areas for development. How might you and your partner school do this? Be creative!
- Have members of the lead group do some preliminary research about your companion school and the country.

- Have members of the group prepare questions in advance that might be asked in a weblink.
- Teachers for Companions in Action should email or Skype prior to the first weblink to put together a framework.
- Who will be participating in the weblink? Lead Teacher? Which young people? School Captains? Class representatives? School Chaplain? Someone from the leadership team?
- You may wish to do the first parts of the Laudato Si' Wisdom Wall Activity with students before the weblink to generate thought and interest.
- Download a Global Map from the Educate Magis website. Think about displaying a large version of this in several strategic places around your school.

## 2. For your first weblink

- Liaise with your school's IT team to make certain that the technology is good to go!
- Make certain that those who will be signing the partnership agreement know times and places.
- Suggested Format of first weblink:
  - Introductions
  - Shared liturgy – see resources
  - Ask one representative from each school to say a little about the school.
  - Shared Goals: Care for our Common Home and Sent in a Global Network. Here might be an opportunity for each school to share a little about what it is doing to care for the environment and why it wants to be part of the global network and Companions in Action
  - Signing of the Partnership Agreement
  - Display Partnership Agreement in a place where everyone can see it

## 3. Keeping the partnership going

- Have a means of sharing information about your partnership and Companion School. This might be a display board that is regularly or regularly updated information on the schools' website.
- Make certain that staff are aware of Companions in Action by including brief presentations at staff meetings or through assemblies.
- Provide opportunities for staff to liaise with their counterparts in your Companions school. This might include sharing resources across subjects. See Educate Magis.
- Provide opportunities for students to share information about what is happening in your school with their peers.
- As the partnership develops make certain to share information about those things that are part of the Jesuit ethos of the school, such as service opportunities.
- Develop shared projects with your Companion School! Think in terms of areas of the curriculum and school life which would lend themselves to joint ventures. Once you have decided develop a clear plan of what you want to achieve and how you plan to proceed.
- Make certain to have a regular schedule for weblinks and sharing information with your partner school.
- Contact Jesuit Missions if you have questions or are looking for ideas and please send us regular updates about your partnership.