

CHALLENGE TO CHANGE



2023—2024

A Sustainable Development Education Project



Challenge to Change is about empowering students as they explore the themes of the Sustainable Development Goals encouraging a social consciousness, a broader vision and an awareness of complex local and global issues.

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RAISING AWARENESS

TAKING ACTION

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Congratulations to all the students and teachers who participated in this year's projects.



Challenge to Change is a development education project aimed at all students in Irish Presentation schools.

The vision of the Challenge to Change project is driven by the Presentation charism and ethos which embraces the challenge of working with those who are furthest behind. Justice, human rights, sustainability and promoting right relationships are central to the Presentation mission. These hands-on projects raise awareness of global inequality as students understand how their local action can have a global impact. What better way to bring about learning than to ground the projects in the **Sustainable Development Goals**, a living plan for the future that connects us all?

Challenge to Change is about empowering students as they explore the themes of the Sustainable Development Goals encouraging a social consciousness, a broader vision and an appreciation of complex global issues. Young people are inspired to consider the reasons why so many are left behind. Projects that relate to People, Planet, Partnership, Peace and Prosperity, the 5 P's of the SDGs, are chosen. The projects are non-competitive. It is accepted that all schools have produced, learned and shared to the best of their ability.

Raising awareness is a key element of each project. Some of the topics chosen are complex, difficult and often confronting but this does not deter the students from researching, caring and working to raise the profile and awareness of topics that perhaps we might not like to hear about.

Towards the end of the school year, all participating schools are invited to send representatives who will speak to their projects at special seminars that celebrate the achievements of all, showcase the work and highlight the learning and insights, allowing all in attendance to shine. Students are eager to explain their learning. What stands out at the seminars is their enthusiasm, their passion for their chosen subject, their authoritative explanations, their confidence, their willingness to share and their ability to stand over their work. They have taken active, competent steps to make a positive difference. All who attend the seminars participate in relevant education workshops.

Challenge to Change is about doing. It is about learning by doing. It is about valuing all. It is about the integration of speaking and thinking that puts the person and their dignity at the centre. It is about being moved by the heart as it taps into a curiosity and promotes teamwork where participation and affirmation are the prizes.



We've All Got Rights! *Scoil Bhríde Clane*



On 20 September 2016 Pope Francis shared that ***“Together we want to give voice to all those who suffer, to all those who have no voice and are not heard.”*** This project brings to life the Catholic social teaching of subsidiarity which involves making sure that decisions are made at the most appropriate level so all those affected can contribute and have a voice.

The goal of this project is to support the students to examine and understand the **U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child**, analyse how this charter is embedded in our school policies and everyday life. The students explored how children’s rights are being met in our local community and identified areas where they could use their voices to advocate for change.

Agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development Goals has a clear focus on ***“Leaving no one behind”*** and children’s rights can be mapped to all Goals. While the project took a holistic approach to mapping all rights, it had a particular focus on those relating to subsidiarity in our community in Clane and surrounding towns in County Kildare.



Students participating in a workshop on rights at the office of the Ombudsman for Children.

We've All Got Rights!

Scoil Bhríde Clane

We began our work by undertaking a **baseline survey** to see what we knew about children's rights. We examined and studied all **42 Articles** in the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**. Then we picked our top ten that we felt were most prominent in our school. Having agreed our top ten, we wrote and delivered an assembly to all twelve Third to Sixth Classes in our school.

Here are our **top ten** complete with catchy slogans for each to help you remember them:

Article	Focus	Slogan
2	Discrimination	<i>No Discrimination in this nation.</i>
3	Best interest of the child	<i>Our best interests are not on pinterest!</i>
12	Respect	<i>Have respect for children's views, the adults shouldn't always have to choose.</i>
13	Sharing thoughts freely	<i>Let children speak freely, it's really that easy.</i>
17	Access information	<i>You shouldn't need an invitation to get the necessary information.</i>
22	Refugee children	<i>If you're a refugee, here is the place to be.</i>
23	Disabilities	<i>Disabilities aren't bad, having one shouldn't make you sad.</i>
28	Access to education	<i>Education is the explanation.</i>
31	Rest, play, culture and arts	<i>Rest, play—yay!</i>
42	Knowing our rights	<i>We've all got rights!</i>



We've All Got Rights!.mp4



James Lawless, T.D., and Catherine Murphy, T.D., visited our classroom.

We've All Got Rights!

Scoil Bhríde Clane

Overall, our class enjoyed this learning experience. We learned that we had developed many new skills like communication, teamwork, respect towards other students' rights and opinions. We also gathered new found information on the topic of Children's Rights. Our favourite part of this project was meeting with the T.D.s, **Catherine Murphy T.D.** and **James Lawless T.D.**, because we all enjoyed discussing our ideas for furthering our communities in Kildare. We enjoyed sharing our project in assembly with our school and at the Challenge to Change Seminar in Tullamore. On 27 June the whole class travelled to Dublin to the office of the **Ombudsman for Children**. The visit was an incredibly memorable experience for the children as they shared their knowledge of children's rights that they had gained through the Challenge to Change project with the staff of the office of the Ombudsman for Children.

We started out this project with the intention of bringing to life the Catholic social teaching of **subsidiarity**—making sure that decisions are made at the most appropriate level so all those affected can contribute and have a voice. The students had a unique and tangible opportunity to experience this in action throughout the duration of the project from learning about their rights, meeting their local T.D.s and experiencing what happens at a national level to advocate for children's rights.



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