

# Session 6

# Belonging Together



## Key learning

Pupils explore the concept of “Ubuntu” and the value of community, understanding that we flourish by valuing our interconnectedness and shared belonging.

## Before the session

### You will need:

- Slides for this session, with sound
- Card cut-outs in house shapes
- Coloured wool, fabric pieces, buttons, sequins, feathers
- Scissors, glue, coloured pens or pencils
- Large display board or backing paper
- *Optional:* Plant pots or saucers
- *Optional:* Soil or compost
- *Optional:* Seeds or small plants

## Notes

# Story

## Be Curious (Community)



### Children's literature

Highlight that the story ends in an interesting way, with "The beginning." This leaves space to imagine what could happen next.

Show pupils three different images (on the slides) and ask them to describe what they see, noting both similarities and differences. Explain that each image could represent a varmint, their experiences, changes, and challenges.

#### Discussion questions:

- What can happen when we don't see the value of others because they are different to us?
- What can happen when we value the inherent worth and dignity of others?

# Space

## Be Present (Embrace)

#### Explore vocabulary

"Ubuntu" means "I am because we are," highlighting the connection between our identities and the wellbeing of others.

Discuss how pupils' actions and relationships with others shape their sense of self and community.



## Activity Our Village

## Notes

Pupils will explore Chief Oloruntoba's artwork "Our Village," which represents a vibrant, interconnected community where everyone belongs and contributes.



In pairs, ask pupils to create a village using colourful wool and card in the shape of a home. Each pair will design and decorate their home, adding unique details that reflect different aspects of their community.

Discuss how their artwork represents a sense of belonging. Just like in Oloruntoba's piece, each colourful home represents different people and their contributions.

By combining their creations, pupils will create a collective artwork symbolising how unique qualities and efforts come together to build a strong, supportive community.

This activity helps pupils understand that a strong community is built on diversity, collaboration, and shared belonging.

**difference.**

# Sanctuary

## Reimagine (Power)



### Bible passage

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

*1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)*

This verse reminds us that, like members of a body, each person has a unique role to play, and together, we form a whole community that thrives when everyone contributes.



### Activity

## Compassion bridges hearts

Show pupils the image on the slide – *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan.

### Ask:

- What do you see?
- What do you think?
- What do you know?
- What do you want to know?

### Discussion:

- Who is marginalised or excluded in our communities?

- How can compassion help our village/community grow?
- Can our village grow by making others feel welcome?
- What could this look like globally?



## Optional activity

# Community project

Here are some ways for your pupils to respond to the themes within *Difference* – you could involve local community members, including parents, carers, parish partners, and school governors or trustees:

### 1 Community garden

Pupils work together to plant flowers, vegetables, and herbs.

This teaches teamwork, sharing resources, and caring for the environment, whilst fostering belonging by creating a shared space where everyone contributes.

### 2 Mini garden project

Pupils create individual plant pot saucers as mini gardens.

This encourages responsibility, empathy, and creativity as well as building a collective green space, symbolising unity and care.



## Song

Play the song ***Big God*** by Tim Godfrey x Fearless Community ft Anderson or ***This is the Day*** (The *Difference* Song)



## Reflection

**You may want to read this reflection aloud to your pupils.**

In our communities, it's important to include everyone and make sure no one feels left out. Ubuntu means "I am because we are," which reminds us that we are all connected and need each other. When we include others and help everyone feel welcome, we make our community stronger and happier. By working together and supporting each other, we show that everyone matters and that we are all part of one big circle of compassion.



## Prayer

Dear God,

Help us to include everyone in our community and make sure no one feels left out. Teach us the spirit of Ubuntu, reminding us that we are all connected and that we need each other. Guide us to show kindness and compassion, making our community a place where everyone feels welcome and valued. May our actions reflect your love and create a circle of compassion that brings us all closer together.

Amen.

## End of sessions