

Session 6

Belonging Together



Key learning

Pupils understand that true belonging comes from recognising, celebrating, and valuing both their individual strengths and the strengths of others, and that community is built when everyone is included and appreciated (Romans 12:5).

Before the session

You will need:

- Slides for this session, with sound
- Ball of string or wool
- Puzzle piece templates
- Pens, crayons, coloured paper
- Space for group discussion and reflection
- *Optional:* Materials for creating a poster or short video

Notes

Story

Be Curious (Community)



Activity Web of connection

Ask your group to sit in a circle. Using a ball of string or wool, one pupil begins by holding the string, sharing something about themselves (a hobby, something they like, or a strength).

They then pass the string to someone else across the circle, saying what they value or appreciate about that person or what they might have in common. The process continues until everyone is connected in a web.



Note: This activity is first introduced in EYFS and revisited in Year 6 to show that, although pupils have grown and changed, they remain connected and can still value and celebrate things about each other.

Suggested questions for discussion:

- How did it feel to be connected by the web?
- What did we learn about each other?
- What does this show us about being part of a community?

Explore vocabulary

Introduce the concept of *Umunthu* – “I belong, therefore I am.” Our value is not only in who we are as individuals but also in who we are together. We flourish when we recognise and celebrate our connections.

Notes

Space

Be Present (Embrace)



Activity

Celebrating our differences

Give each pupil a piece of leaf-shaped paper to decorate with symbols, colours, or words that represent who they are. These might include words like kind, curious, brave, creative, thoughtful, or joyful – qualities they see in themselves or value in others.

Collect all the leaves and attach them to a large paper tree displayed on a wall or board, creating a "Belonging Tree."

Suggested questions for discussion:

- What do you notice when you see all the leaves on the tree?
- Why is it important that every leaf looks different?
- How does the tree show us the strength of our community when we come together?

 **Notes**

Sanctuary

Reimagine (Power)

Notes



Bible passage

"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Romans 12:5 (NIV)

This verse reminds us that even though we're all different, we all belong to each other. Each of us has our own gifts, strengths, and personality – things that make us special and unique. And when we come together, we're part of something bigger.

Think of it like a jigsaw puzzle: every piece is a different shape and colour, but each one matters. Even if some pieces look different or fit in unusual ways, they all help complete the picture. In the same way, we all belong and bring something important, just as we are.



Optional Activity **We all belong**

Invite your pupils to create a poster, short video, or digital presentation titled "We All Belong." This should reflect their personal commitment to including everyone, appreciation, and respect in the school community.

Ask each pupil to choose one meaningful action they will take this term to help someone feel included, valued, or supported. This could be as simple as sitting with someone new at lunch, listening to someone's story, standing up for a classmate, or inviting others to join in a game or group activity.

difference.

Encourage pupils to use images, words, colours, or symbols that express the importance of belonging and community. For videos, they might want to share their action in their own words or work in pairs to role-play examples.

You could create a class display or digital showcase of the posters and videos to celebrate everyone's ideas and commitments, reinforcing the message that each person plays a part in building a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment.

Suggested questions for reflection:

- What does it mean to belong?
- How can we recognise when someone feels left out?
- How does it feel when someone goes out of their way to include us?
- What small actions can make a big difference?



Reflection

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

Umunthu is a powerful word from the Chichewa language, spoken in parts of southern Africa, including Malawi. It means: "**I belong, therefore I am.**"

That's a big idea because it tells us that we become who we are through our connections with others. We're not meant to journey through life alone. We're shaped by how we treat people, and how they treat us. *Umunthu* reminds us that we are all deeply connected.

Some people think power means being in charge, being the loudest, or always being right. But *Umunthu* teaches us a different kind of strength. Real power comes from kindness, from lifting others up, and from choosing to treat people with respect, especially when it's hard to do.

Every one of us has something special to bring. Each of

us can help shape the kind of school we want to be part of: a place where everyone belongs, where differences are celebrated, and where no one is left out or left behind.

Just like a puzzle made up of different pieces, our community needs every one of us. When we choose to listen, to include others, and to show care, we help build a stronger, kinder school.

So today, think about this:

How can you use your words, actions, and choices to help someone else feel they belong?

That's what Umunthu is all about, and it's something we can all live out, together.



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for making each one of us special. Thank you that we all belong – just like parts of one body.

Help us to see the value in others, to include, listen, and show kindness. May we work together to build a community of love, where everyone feels seen, heard, and important.

Amen.

End of sessions

difference.