

Tolerance



Tolerance

Purpose

To explore the importance of getting on with each other; understanding that everyone is different; learning that only by working together can we get the best out of each other.

Entrance of Pupils

A thought provoking slideshow introducing the theme of tolerance for the pupils to enter assembly to (10 minutes)

Introduction

Think about people you know. The chances are there will be one or two of those people who annoy you. They get 'under your skin'. They 'bug you'.

Why is it that they irritate you so much?

Is that irritation reasonable? Is it fair?

It might be...perhaps it's not.

Is it an annoying habit?

Is it their appearance? Is it what they say? Is it what they don't say? Is it something else?

Keep that person in mind as you watch the following story—the story of 'How the Rainbow Got its Colours'.



The Story of How The Rainbow Got its Colours

(An Indian Legend)

Once upon a time, all the colours in the world started to quarrel; each claimed that she was the best, the most important, the most useful, the favourite.

Green said “It’s obvious to everybody that I am more important than anyone else....anyone else!” I represent life and hope. Look in the forest – you will see that I was selected to be the grass, the trees, the leaves. If it wasn’t for me – all creation would die.

“When you look out into the distance Green is the colour that you notice – so, you see, I am the most important colour of all.”

Blue was having none of this. “There is, of course, green, but you are only keeping in mind the earth. Look beyond the earth and set your eyes on the sea and the sky.

“The sky drifts our minds towards space and peacefulness. The sky guides up to tranquility and stillness! If you don’t have my peace – you will never be at rest – you will be tortured with busyness.

The water is the provider for all life. The clouds take the water from the deepest blue sea and provides for all creatures. It is obvious that I am, without question, the most important colour.”

Yellow giggled and giggled, rolling around with shoulders shaking!

“Stop being so serious people! Yellow is the provider of laughter, jollity and warmth. The whole world knows this!

“Yellow is the colour of our life giving sun. The moon provides a yellow night time glow. As do the stars that shine gleefully in the night.

An impressive deep yellow sunflower brings a smile to even the saddest face. I bring happiness. There would be no fun without me.”



Orange was having none of it. “I am the colour of strength. The colour of health. Something we all aspire to. I am rare but I am the most precious. My colour brings you everything you require for your inner needs.

I provide mangoes, citrus fruit, carrots, papaws, pumpkins – they all give you essential vitamins and minerals.

At the start and end of the day – you will stop, breath taken at my natural awe and beauty. Just for a short time – a glimpse of my stunning splendour. Compared to that...nothing, no-one would even glance at you!

Pompous purple rose up impressively. Immensely tall and striking – she went on:

“I am royalty. I am the colour of power, control and strength. The most important people reach for me. Kings, bishops, chiefs. They know that I display wisdom and authority. They trust me.

Purple is not to be questioned. Purple is to be heard and obeyed.”

Indigo – meekly stood – though with a surprising inner confidence expressed herself:

“Shh! I am the colour of silence. You may go through times when you barely notice me – but I am there. Without me you are completely superficial, completely shallow!

I am reflection. I am your deepest thought revealing your inner most motivation. I am the colour of twilight and the deepest water. You can't manage without me – I bring contrast and steadiness.

I bring the most desired of all. I bring inner peace!”

The colours continued quarrelling through the night. Bragging and arrogant they had no time for each other. They had no respect for each other. They only thought of themselves.



From nowhere there was a startling flash. Stunning brilliant white lightning filled the sky. The air pounded with the roar of thunder booming across the countryside.

The rain beat down on the ground incessantly – hurtling – hammering down relentlessly.

The colours stopped abruptly. They cowered down hiding themselves as well as they could with fear. They clung together, terrified, desperately seeking strength, support and comfort.

Then Rain spoke to them all: “Why are you all fighting with each other? Why do you not respect each other? Look at you – you are all immeasurably beautiful. You all contribute great splendour – you all have an important role to fill.

“Stick together and join me. You will stretch across the sky in a great arch as a reminder of how each of you are beautiful alone – but combined you are the most beautiful of all. Together – you can live in peace as a great sign of hope.”

So whenever there has been a great storm to wash and cleanse the world – a rainbow appears in the sky. It reminds us to show appreciation, tolerance and acceptance of each other.



Everybody is entitled to be different; to be unique; to be an individual; to be genuinely themselves.

We can still be friends, we can still tolerate each other, we can still accept them. We don't have to agree with everything—we can agree to disagree and still get on.

Equal Opportunities Law

In the UK, you might be surprised to know that there is an Equal Opportunities Act—it's the law!

In this act, everybody in the UK has a right to go about their business without being treated unfavorably because of their disability; race or colour; physical features; their religious beliefs; their gender—boy/girl, man/woman, male/female; their preferences—gay or straight; and other reasons.

Bullies

HOLD ON!

What about bullies?

Nobody at all needs to tolerate people who carry out nasty, unprovoked acts of bullying.

NOBODY NEEDS TO TOLERATE THEM!

Being Sorry

Just take a moment to think of that person that I'm not tolerant of; that I don't accept. It could be someone at school, in your class. It could be someone right here, right now. It could be someone in the family.



If you haven't had the best attitude to someone, you don't have to beat yourself up. We all make mistakes and that's okay—but what are you going to do about it?

Can you try a little harder?

Can you be more accepting?

Can you acknowledge that person in some small way more than you have done in the past?

Let's try—like the colours of the rainbow—to join together in some way; to be more tolerant towards each other; and together be stronger, more impressive, BETTER!

Quotation

Helen Keller was a famous American author. She was both blind and deaf.

She once said:

'Alone we can do so little...together we can do so much!'

The Bible Says:

Lots of traditions and religions have ways of teaching us by using natural phenomena. 'The Colours of the Rainbow' is from North American Indian folklore.

In the Old Testament, Jews and Christians hear the story of Noah, a man who listens to the word of God and heeds the warning that there will be a mighty flood.

By building a huge ship called and Ark, Noah, his family and a male and female of every species of animal are able to survive the flood by living together in peace and tolerance in the Ark.

Once the waters have cleared, God sends a rainbow to show Noah that he is safe.



Let's Pray:

Dear God

Help us to remember that everyone is different and each one of us has special and unique gifts to share with others.

Help us to be tolerant of others, even if we don't like or understand them.

Amen

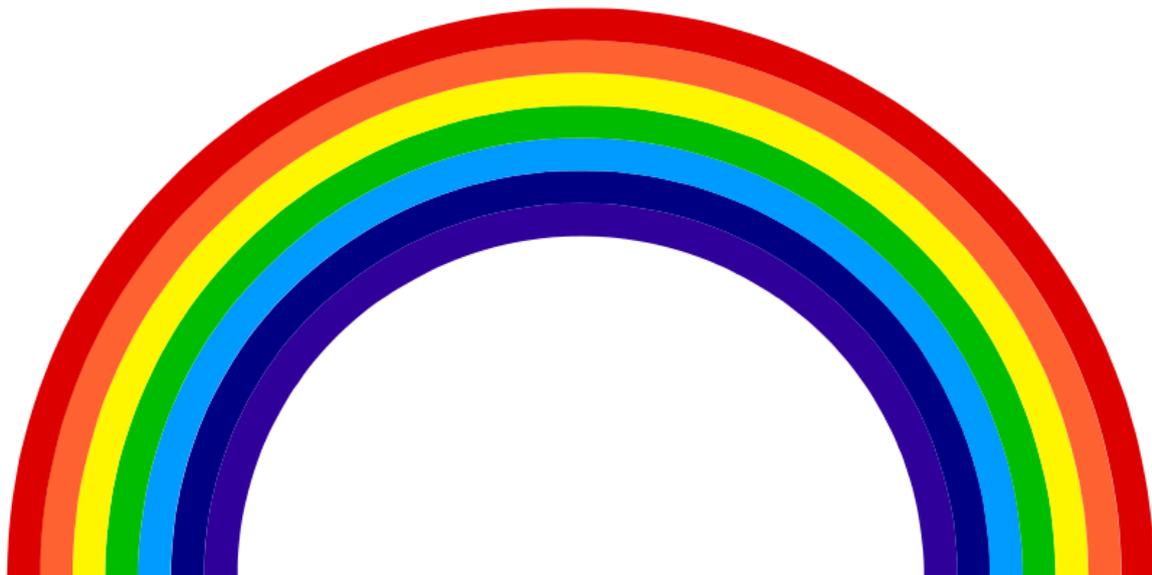
Putting it into Practice

Think about someone in school that you don't get on with very well.

Make an effort to say positive things to them and about them.

Exit of Pupils

A thought provoking slideshow of the key issues raised in the assembly about the theme of 'Tolerance' for the pupils to enter assembly to (10 minutes)



Collective Worship and Putting it into Practice for the Rest of the Week

Day 2

Dear God

Help us to learn that by working together, we are stronger and much more successful because we are sharing our different strengths and abilities.

Help us today to work well with each other in harmony.

Amen

Make a special effort to spend time working or playing with someone that you don't know very well

Day 3

Dear God

Sometimes the people who we are closest to, irritate and annoy us the most.

Please help us to get on well with those at home and make this evening a peaceful and appreciative place.

Amen

At home tonight, do something kind for a member of the family to show that you are thinking of them and appreciate them



Day 4

Dear God

Thank you for making me unique; for giving me the mix of gifts and talents that no one else has in exactly the same way as me.

Help me to use my talents to day for the good of myself and others around me.

Let me recognize and celebrate that I am exactly what you made me to be.

Amen

Research the story of 'Noah and the Ark'. Find out about life on the Ark and how long the family and animals had to live together in tolerance of each other.

Day 5

Dear God

Help me to think about people that I may have been unkind to because they irritate me. Help me to consider how I might have made them feel by my words and actions. Did I exclude them and make them feel isolated? Did I laugh at them because I think they are different?

Help me to have the courage to say sorry and ask them to forgive me.

Amen

Find out as many words as you can that are similar to 'tolerance'. Choose one of them to us as your personal motto:

'I will work to become a moreperson'.

