Mission Together Assembly - *Children helping Children*

LEADER'S NOTES

This assembly has been prepared by Mission Together, which is the children's branch of Missio – the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. 96% of money raised by children for Mission Together goes towards our work supporting children overseas.

While all projects are supported by the Catholic Church, Mission Together follows Christ's example – helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief.

The assembly helps children to understand how the Church is made up of many people around the world who pray with one another and share what they have. Through Mission Together children do that too, so that all children everywhere may know how much they are loved by God.

We recommend you deliver the whole assembly ***but please feel free to use the material as time and circumstances allow****. The PowerPoint uses animations, so we advise that you run through it before you present to your pupils.*

SLIDE ONE

Welcome to your Mission Together assembly. This picture is the Mission Together logo.

Ask the children if they can explain what the logo means. Invite suggestions and guide answers to the following:

The logo shows children holding hands around the world. They are wearing different colours to show they are from different continents. The logo shows us that even though these children live far apart, they can still work together to share God's love with everyone and to build a better world. That is what God asks us to do. That is the mission Jesus left us.

Ask the children what the word 'mission' means.

A mission is an important task or job. We all have a special mission: to share God's love with the world. When we do this, we become missionaries.

'Mission Together' means we can do the special job of being missionaries together, not just here at school but with children everywhere.

Like the picture we see in the logo, through Mission Together, children all around the world join together and help one another, no matter how far away they are.

That's why Mission Together's motto is 'children helping children'.

SLIDE TWO

There are two very special ways in which Mission Together asks you to help.

Ask the children if they know what these two ways might be.

Click to reveal image of children praying

Firstly – and most importantly – Mission Together asks children around the world to pray for each other, and especially for those children who need help.

Through our prayers and through God's love it's as if we are holding hands and reminding the world that we are all part of God's family.

Click to reveal image of children sharing

Mission Together also asks children to help by sharing what we have. You can see that the children on the screen are holding Mission Together's red collection box. The money we collect in these little boxes allows us to provide children living in poverty with food, education, shelter and care.

SLIDE THREE

Mission Together children help refugees like Sandra to attend Marka school for child refugees in the Middle East (top left).

Mission Together children helped to buy food and medicines to help care for Ajay and his friends living in Sri Lanka, Asia (top right).

They also helped build a health clinic in Malawi, Africa, to keep children like Alex safe and well.

And Mission Together children help Sr Eulie (bottom left) to look after and teach poor children like Soriya in Cambodia, Asia.

The projects outlined above have all featured in our 'Together in…' campaign assemblies. Please visit our website to download these free resources.

SLIDE FOUR

We pray and we share to help children who struggle, just as we would to help our friends or someone in our family.

We do this because Jesus taught us that as well as belonging to our families at home, we belong to another family too. A huge family that stretches around the world – God's family!

Jesus taught us that everyone is a child of God, our loving Father in heaven. He taught us a very special prayer that reminds us of this.

Ask the children if they know what this prayer might be.

Answer: The Our Father (The Lord's Prayer).

Click to reveal Our Father. Read the prayer aloud together.

SLIDE FIVE

All over the world, children are acting as brothers and sisters in God's global family and sharing our mission to love and help others.

These children live in Sri Lanka.

Ask the children if they know which continent Sri Lanka is in.

Asia! Every week these children meet to pray and, although they and their families have little money themselves, they give a small coin worth 10 pence to Mission Together.

The children know that through their prayers and sharing the little they have, they can make a big difference to others living in poverty across the world.

SLIDE SIX

These children live in Kenya.

Ask the children if they know which continent Kenya is in.

Africa! In Africa there is a special day when thousands of children across the continent pray the mission rosary.

The mission rosary is a special set of rosary beads, that help us to pray for children around the world.

The different coloured beads represent different continents: green for Africa, red for the Americas, white for Europe, blue for Oceania and yellow for Asia.

Once the children in Kenya made mission rosaries and sent them to children in another part of Africa whose country was at war.

Ask how this gift might have made the children living in conflict feel.

The gift gave the children there hope. They knew they were not forgotten and that there are children who thinking and praying for them.

SLIDE SEVEN

These children live in Australia.

Ask the children if they know which continent Australia is in.

Oceania! In Australia children who go to Catholic schools like yours make a special effort in October, to pray and share for Mission Together.

They call the month 'Socktober' and take part in different fundraising activities, like 'Rock Your Socks Off' dance parties, and sock puppet shows, where children act out stories from the Bible that remind us of how we are to share God's love with everyone, everywhere.

SLIDE EIGHT

These children live in Ecuador.

Ask the children if they know which continent Ecuador is in.

South America! In Ecuador children who have very little money also share what they can to help God's family around the world.

One group of children heard about Mission Together at church. When they went to school, they told their classmates about what they had learnt. The teachers overheard and invited the group to talk about Mission Together to the whole school. Since then all the children in the school pray and raise money for Mission Together.

They are all 'children helping children'?

SLIDE NINE

Now which continent have we reached?

Europe! This is the continent we live in. So what can you do this year to be 'children helping children'?

Every year children in England and Wales help Mission Together to care for children who need our help overseas.

Through their prayers, sharing and fundraising they join with Mission Together children around the world to share God's love with everyone, everywhere!

Many schools make a special effort to raise money for Mission Together by holding a Day of Many Colours.

Children make a donation to come to school dressed in the colours of the Mission Rosary or wearing costumes from countries around the world.

Some children bake cakes from the continents and sell them to pay for a meal for a child overseas.

Some schools hold sports tournaments, with teams representing different continents. Some even hold Mad Hair days when children make a donation to wear their hair in a silly way.

SLIDE TEN

How wonderful that on every continent, through Mission Together, children are showing the world that we are all part of God's family, a family that Jesus tells us we should love and care for.

You can join this important mission.

Ask the children if they can remember two ways you can do this?

Answer: Prayer and sharing.

Let's always look for ways to share, whether that's sharing our toys with our friends, or our books with our classmates, or our money with Mission Together.

And let's always remember to pray for all God's children, those near and those far away.

Let's do that now as we close our assembly with the Mission Together Prayer.

Mission Together Prayer:

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love.
Now and forever.

Amen