

My Neighbourhood



SPHE STRANDS:

**Myself and the Wider World –
Developing citizenship**

Chatting

Chat with the children about their neighbourhood using questions such as:

- Do you know what a 'next-door neighbour' is? Does anyone have a friend who lives next door to them? Would you like to tell us about them?
- Who else is in your neighbourhood?
- Is there anything all the neighbours do together – e.g clean up green areas, have a 'neighbourhood watch' scheme, enter 'Tidy Towns', plant flowers, have a neighbourhood Mass together?
- Is there anyone old or sick in your neighbourhood? Do people go and visit them or do messages for them? Is there anything else people do for each other in your neighbourhood?

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Poem: My Street

I live in the house with the yellow door,
Conor lives in number 4.
Mrs Brady has a cat,
'Welcome' is written on Sarah's mat.
There's a tree we climb just down the street,
A bench where all the old folk meet,
Bikes and trikes and buggies too,
You know me and I know you.
We run and play and sing a song,
Everyone feels like they belong –
Mums and dads, boys and girls,
Freckled faces, heads of curls.
My neighbourhood is home to me,
My favourite place on earth to be.
I know I'll never be alone
When I can call this street my home.

When you have read the poem, ask questions such as:

- Who lives in number 4?
- What is written on Sarah's mat?
- Where do 'all the old folk meet'?
- Does the poem remind you of any place?
Would you like to tell the class about it?
- Do you think neighbours are important to each other? In what way?
- Do you think it's important to help out older neighbours or neighbours who are sick? Do you ever do that? In what way?

Photos

Show the children photos of people who serve the community – e.g. a guard, a lollipop lady, a shopkeeper, a doctor, a postman, priest, etc.

- Ask them what each of these people does in our community? Is this an important job? What would happen if we did not have these people?
- How can we show appreciation for the people who serve our community?

Art Activity

Invite the children to draw three people who serve their community that they are familiar with. They can draw them in uniform or carrying out their duties.

Invite the children to explain their picture to the child beside them. These pictures can then be displayed on the wall.

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Reflection

Invite the children to close their eyes while you read the following reflection:

Close your eyes and think of your own neighbourhood and the people who live close to you. Think of the ways you help each other, smile and say hello to each other, maybe loan each other things sometimes, play together, share a lift in the car sometimes. Think of someone in your neighbourhood who is old. Does your family ever visit or care for someone who is old or sick in the neighbourhood? Think of people who help in your community: a guard, a nurse, a priest, a lollipop lady or a shopkeeper.

We thank God for all the people in our neighbourhood. Help us to be good neighbours to each other. Help us to enjoy each other's company and to be nice to each other. Help us to look out for anyone who is old or sick. Thank you, God, for my neighbourhood. Amen