

## Introduction

In July 2019, Victoria Primary School, Wrexham signed up to the Wales Peace Schools Scheme, a scheme where everyone feels safe, respected and valued, and where schools aim to develop an ethos based on cooperation, respect for differences and problem solving.

As a diverse school (with over 20 nationalities) they considered it was necessary to promote cohesion, cooperation and celebrate their uniqueness. That's how their journey started.



LEARNING ABOUT PEACE - PEACE EXHIBITION

## What made you become a Peace School?

As a school we want to promote and celebrate peace as 'the norm'. We want to celebrate peace and cooperation at a local level, national level and globally. We want to nurture our pupils to become tolerant, cooperative and respectful individuals who can use critical thinking to peacefully solve issues and work together to make the world a better place. We want 'peace' to have a high profile in schools which will impact every layer of our work.

## How did you integrate peace stories into the curriculum?

We included peace stories in our PSE, RE and humanities schemes of work and they feature in our school assemblies and year group productions. We also linked peace to our expressive arts topics and film making units and worked on collective workshops / themes for reflection.

## Impact so far

We found that our school values of being Ready, Respectful and Safe took on a new and deeper meaning when the children related it to our Peace School Status.

Before the pandemic, we noticed that the pupils spoke better to each other.

Our children were beginning to understand that inner peace was related to wellbeing

The children wanted 'peaceful' areas in school including a peace garden and a reflection room, called 'Our Breathing Space'.

All classrooms now have peaceful/reflection areas.

Pupils suggested raising money for Unicef and the Red Cross

**"Previously, children would relate the word 'peace' to the opposite of war. We now know the children have a wider understanding of peace"**