

Key Stage 1 lesson or Whole school assembly



This session develops the children's empathy and understanding of homelessness by putting themselves in the shoes of someone who is homeless and considering all the different feelings and worries associated with it.

It helps them to consider the different causes of homelessness and the way people who are homeless are perceived.

The session also allows them to consider what different types of support are needed to help someone who is homeless and how Porchlight meets these needs.

The pupils will develop a better understanding of a need in their community and how they as individuals and with their families and school can contribute to their community by fundraising for Porchlight.

Resources:

- Flipchart with several sheets of paper
- Markers in several colours

1) Can anyone put their hand up and tell me what a charity is?

A charity is an organisation that tries to help people and schools and businesses and other people donate or fundraise for that charity.

Can anyone tell me the names of any charities? (Take 3 or 4 answers)

Porchlight is a charity that helps people here in your own town. They help homeless people.

2) Put your hand up if you've ever seen a homeless person.

Don't take questions or comments, just comment on the fact that so many of them have seen someone.

3) What did they look like? How did you know that they were homeless?

After a few of their answers, draw a person based on the kids' description on the flip chart paper. Tatty clothes, messy hair, where are they. Leave out the mouth until the end or until one of them points out there's no mouth.

4) Would this person be happy or sad?

Everyone will shout "SAD!" Draw in mouth and give them the name Ollie and write that at the bottom or top of the page

5) How come Ollie looks like this?

Nowhere to wash/shave, clean his clothes, no money for a haircut etc.

6) How would you feel if you were Ollie?

Sad, cold, afraid, hungry, sick, tired, angry, alone, embarrassed. Write the words that the kids say in a different colour around Ollie. If appropriate ask why they would feel angry, alone, embarrassed etc.

7) How come Ollie is living on the street like this? What happened?

Mainly let the older kids at the back of the hall answer, they will have some sensible answers: House burnt down, Ollie was sick, fell out with his mum and dad, someone died, lost his job etc.

Anybody can become homeless, for lots of different reasons. Homeless people are not bad and are no different from you and me. They are just someone who really needs help.

8) What does Ollie need for his situation to get better?

On a new piece of flip chart paper, draw Ollie's new life based on the kids' suggestions: House, new clothes, a haircut/wash, friends, pets, bed, bath, food, money. Draw a house with windows and point to them and say what's in those rooms – bedroom, bathroom etc. Draw Ollie in the middle with a haircut and nice clothes.

How many of you have a favourite outfit at home? Lots of you. And when you wear it, it makes you feel special and confident doesn't it? Porchlight helps people like Ollie get new clothes so they can wear things that they like and that fit them which makes them feel happier.

9) Point at the 2 different Ollies and ask "So is this Ollie the same person as this Ollie?"

Half will shout yes, half will shout no

Actually they are the same person but they just look very different. So we have to remember that when we see someone sitting on the street who is a bit smelly and looks a bit scary, underneath the dirty clothes and the beard is a normal person, like Ollie, who needs help.

10) Point at the new life of Ollie. "Porchlight helps people like Ollie to rebuild their whole lives."

We are really nice to them and make sure they don't feel afraid of us. We explain that we can help and find them a new home. We have lots of houses where people can live for a while and get help with getting better if they were sick or to find work again. It's not their own home though and when they are ready we help them to find their own home. So it's not JUST about making sure that they have a bed to sleep in but to make sure that they have a real home where they feel happy, healthy and safe. To make new friends and go back to school or find a job that they enjoy.

11) "Do you think it's important that we help people like Ollie?"

("YES!")

12) "Would you like to do something to help?"

("YES!")

Explain that by taking part in Heroes Against Homelessness and fundraising for Porchlight they are already doing something to help. It's super important to raise money for Porchlight, as this means they will be able to keep helping lots of people like Ollie, and they can't do it without your help!

13) If doing a sponsored activity: Does anyone have any top tips for raising money? Ask Mums, Dads and Guardians, Aunties and Uncles, and school teachers for sponsorship. Ask your grown-ups to send the online sponsorship page to friends and family that live far away. Also, ask your grown-ups to take sponsorship forms to the places they work!