

Peace Education in Action



Practising conflict resolution

Students brainstorm conflicts in their lives - such as those with siblings over taking each other's toys or clothes. Students then act-out the conflicts and different approaches to solving them.



Photos: Olivia Martin

Win-Win

Simulation games are an enjoyable way to learn conflict resolution concepts and skills - such as win-win approaches to conflicts. Here pupils can win a prize if they get the other team across the line three times in fifteen seconds. Some choose to fight and neither team wins. Those that choose to co-operate find that both teams can win.

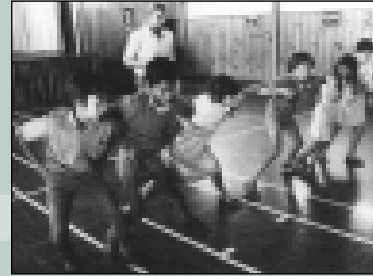


Photo: Gil Hanly

Celebrating Peace in the School

Peace education includes developing a caring and supportive school environment in which problems are solved peacefully and everyone is involved in making important decisions. In addition there are special days and weeks in the year when schools can hold peace events:

- **March 1:** Bikini Day. Anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Bikini Atoll in the Pacific
- **May 24:** International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament
- **June 4:** United Nations (UN) Day for Innocent Child Victims of Aggression
- **August:** NZ Schools' Peace Week. Includes anniversaries of nuclear bombing of Hiroshima (Aug 6) and Nagasaki (Aug 9) and Indigenous Peoples' Day (Aug 9)
- **September 21:** UN International Day of Peace
- **October 24:** UN Disarmament Day
- **November 5:** Parihaka Day
- **November 9-14:** UN Week of Science and Peace
- **December 10:** Human Rights Day



Creating a peace garden at school
Photo: Gil Hanly

*If any come with guns and swords, be not afraid. If they smite you, smite not in return.
Te Whiti, Maori non-violent resister and co-founder of Parihaka peace community*

Resources & Contacts

Cool Schools Peer Mediation Programme
www.peace.net.nz/cool_schools.cfm
Ph (09) 373-2379

Eliminating Violence -
Ministry of Education Group Special Education
www.ses.org.nz/specialprogs.htm

Global Campaign for Peace Education
www.haguepeace.org (See Peace Education)

Global Education Centre
www.globaled.org.nz Ph (04) 496-9593

Kia Kaha - NZ Police Youth Education Service
www.nobully.org.nz www.police.govt.nz/yes
Ph (04) 470-7107

Kiwi Can
www.kiwican.telecom.co.nz

New Zealand Commission for UNESCO
www.unesco.org.nz Ph (04) 473-5536

Peace and Disarmament Education Trust
www.dia.govt.nz (See Trusts) Ph (04) 495-9387

The Peace Foundation
www.peace.net.nz Ph (09) 373-2379

Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour
www.minedu.govt.nz (See Special Education Services)
Ph 0800 622-222

Lions-Skills For Living
www.lions-quest.org.nz Ph 0800 800-353

Te Kete Ipurangi - The Online Learning Centre
www.tki.org.nz

United Nations Association of New Zealand
www.converge.org.nz/unanz Ph (04) 473-0441

United Nations Youth Association of NZ
(includes Model United Nations Assemblies)
www.unyanz.co.nz Ph (04) 473-0441

*Nau te rourou, naku te rourou,
ka ora ai te iwi.
With your basket and my basket
people will be nourished.
Whakatauki (Maori proverb)*

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Peace Education in Schools

An information
pamphlet for teachers

Aotearoa-New Zealand 2003



What is Peace Education?

Peace education is about helping students to understand and transform conflict in their own lives, in the community and in the world at large.

It is part of all learning areas and is reinforced by people treating each other in positive ways in classrooms, playgrounds and in their families and communities.

Peace education aims to help students develop:

Skills, such as being able to:

- solve problems and conflict in positive ways including through negotiation and mediation
- communicate feelings and perspectives and transform anger
- understand others' feelings and perspectives
- cooperate with others
- think independently and critically
- take part responsibly in decision making

Attitudes, such as having:

- concern for others and the environment
- a desire to help and be of service
- honesty, trustworthiness and fairness
- respect other cultures, religions and lifestyles
- tolerance (rangimarie), generosity (manaakitanga) and compassion (aroha)

Knowledge of:

- how problems and conflicts can be solved
- the values of oneself and others
- human rights and responsibilities
- the roles and effectiveness of local, national and international organizations that promote peace and help solve conflicts
- New Zealand's role in developing peace at home and internationally.

*There is no way to peace - peace is the way.
Mahatma Gandhi*

Peace Education and Violence

The Ministerial Committee of Inquiry into Violence (1987) noted that "Education is one of the most important areas where long-term measures to reduce violence can be implemented", and recommended "That all teachers at all levels be given opportunities to discuss and implement Peace Studies."

Aotearoa-New Zealand's Commitment to Peace Education

The government of Aotearoa-New Zealand has demonstrated its commitment to peace education nationally and internationally in many ways including:

- Producing Peace Studies Guidelines for schools in 1986
- Establishing a Peace and Disarmament Education Trust in 1987
- Producing a brochure to inform parents about peace education in 1988
- Supporting the International Decade for Peace and Non-Violence for Children, 2000 - 2010
- Supporting the Global Campaign for Peace Education, 2000 onwards
- Participating in the UN Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education 2001 - 2002



*Student mediators in action -
Takapuna Grammar School
Photo: Mark McNeill*

Peace education skills, including positive communication, problem solving and social and cooperative learning, are part of essential skills in all learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum and link to the strands in Te Whāriki (Early Childhood Curriculum).

"Students will:

- develop good relationships with others
- respond appropriately to discriminatory practices
- develop a sense of responsibility towards others
- develop the ability to negotiate and reach consensus."

New Zealand Curriculum Framework



*Making origami cranes - the Japanese bird of peace
Photo: Gil Hanly*

A peaceful classroom is a productive classroom

Peace studies have been demonstrated to:

- Improve the classroom climate
- Reduce stress on teachers and pupils
- Enable pupils to work more productively
- Enhance problem-solving skills*

* Peace Studies in Primary, Secondary and Intermediate Schools in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Cathy Mulholland for the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control, 1990.

Peace Education in the Curriculum

Specific peace education topics relate to a variety of contexts in curriculum areas. For example:

- Students can explore peace and conflict resolution at home and in the community through literature, drama and art.
- Learning about peace between cultures can include an awareness of the contributions of different cultures - especially Maori as tangata whenua of Aotearoa-New Zealand society - an understanding of values which are shared and those which differ, and examples of historical disputes and their resolution.
- Students can understand the possibilities of peace through studying successful approaches to peacemaking, reconciliation and disarmament along with the causes of international conflict.
- The study of international conflicts can also include the roles of media and modern technology, and the positive impact of peace on human health, the environment and the economy.

"Learning outcomes: a range of strategies for solving conflicts in peaceful ways, and a perception that peaceful ways are best."

Te Whāriki (Early Childhood Curriculum)



*Building trust and co-operation through a blind walk game
Photo: Gil Hanly*