**Religious Observance/Time for Reflection Template**

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| **Date/Rationale** | At the start of the school year this RO/TfR event intends to explore the theme of family and enable the children to have a sense that they are  a) part of a family at home  b) part of the school family  c) part of the human family/and for some God’s family |
| **Title** | Family |
| **Stage** | P1-3 plus older children with complex needs. |
| **Aim** | The broad aim of the event is to help build a sense of community within the school  The event promotes the spiritual development of all members of the school community by encouraging them to think of all people as part of the human family. Some children will see this as being part of God’s family.  Within this activity the ‘shared values’ of belonging and togetherness and everyone having something to contribute to the school community are being expressed and celebrated here. |
| **Objectives** | The objective of the RO theme is to enable pupils to sense values.  ***Sensing values:*** attitudes and feelings about what is really important, what really matters    At the end of this theme pupils will be able to identify that they are part of different families at home, school and in the world. |
| **Links with CfE** | This theme exemplifies becoming  **Confident Individuals with:** secure values and beliefs;  **Effective Contributors *able to:*** communicate in different ways and in different settings; work in partnership and in teams    It promotes the value of integrity.  In terms of health and wellbeing it supports the pupils in developing their self-awareness, self-worth and respect for others |
| **Is this part of a series?** | The family theme will run over three-four weeks at Friday Assembly |
| **Introduction** | The event will be introduced by the school chaplain. |
| **Stimulus/ stimuli**  **(content over a number of weeks)** | 1. photographs showing different families  2. songs – we are one big happy family; He’s got the whole world in his hands.  3. story of the rainbow (class involvement in presenting story)  4. making a school family tree ( branch for each class) |
| **Guided Reflection** | Thinking that we are all part of our immediate families, the school family and the human family and for some God’s family. We need each other and we each have our own place and role in the family. |
| **Response & Possible Next Steps** | (1) An immediate response: a moment of prayer or meditation with Makaton signs.  (2) A long-term response: throughout the year other RO themes will reflect aspects of living/behaving as a family/community.  (3) Communication with parents through Parent Council and facebook page to encourage discussion of topic at home. |
| **Evaluation (a)** | Discussion with class which participated in the story telling: Did they enjoy it? |
| **Evaluation (b)** | Feedback from staff. |
| **Evaluation (c)** | Evaluation of pupil engagement and participation and reaction during the theme input. |

The story of the rainbow.

Once upon a time all the colours in the world started to argue; each said she was the best, the most important, the most useful, the favourite.

Green said: ‘I am the most important. I am the sign of life and hope. I was chosen for grass, trees, leaves – without me all the animals would die. I am the colour of frogs, crickets and grasshoppers and all sorts of amazing insects. Look over the countryside and you will see that most of it is green.’

Blue interrupted. ‘You have only thought about the earth, but what about the sky and the sea. Everything needs water to live and this is drawn up by the clouds from the blue sea. In the sea you will find dolphins and blue whales, bluetits and bluebirds fly in the sky and there are beautiful blue flowers on the earth.’

Yellow laughed out loud. ‘ I bring laughter and fun and warmth in the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow. The stars are yellow. Think of yellow sand and beautiful sunflowers, baby chicks and ducklings. When you see yellow the whole world starts to smile.’

Orange started next: ‘I am the colour of health and strength. There are not as many orange things in the world but they are all very healthy and have lots of vitamins in them – carrots, and pumpkins and oranges and mangoes. When the sunsets or rises in the morning I fill the sky with a wonderful orange glow.’

Red could not keep quiet any longer. She shouted out: ‘I am the ruler of you all because blood is red, life’s blood. I am the colour of danger. Fire is red. When you see a red sign you know to stop. But I am also the colour of love – red lips, poppies and roses to say I love you.’

Purple stood up straight and tall. ‘I am the colour of royalty and power. Kings and chiefs and bishops have chosen purple for their clothes because I am a sign of authority and wisdom. People listen to me, but I am also found in flowers and grapes and butterflies.’

Indigo spoke very quietly. ‘Think of me, I am the colour of silence. You hardly notice me, but you need me for deep thoughts and memories. I am the colour of peace.’

And so all the colours went on boasting, each convinced they were the best. Their shouting got louder and louder. Then it began to rain just gently at first but then it got louder and louder, and heavier and heavier.

The rain spoke. ‘You foolish colours, fighting among yourselves. Do you not know that God made you each for a special purpose, unique and different, He loves you all and wants you all. Join hands with one another and come with me. We will stretch you across the sky in a rainbow, as a reminder that God loves you all, that you can live together in peace. A promise that God is always with you. A sign of hope for tomorrow.

And so whenever God has used a good rain to wash the world, God puts the rainbow in the sky and when we see it we should remember that God loves each one of us and wants us to be friends with each other.

An Indian legend. (Worship book of the Second European Ecumenical Assembly 23-29 June 1997 – adapted for use at school)