

Activity 4: Daily Routines

In this activity, pupils explore what life would be like without a home and the daily hardships those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness face. The main purpose of this activity is to develop pupils' awareness and empathy for people experiencing homelessness. The thinking process in this activity should enable pupils to reject the idea that those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness are intrinsically different to them.

Learning Intentions

Pupils will:

- explore and develop their understanding of homelessness;
- be aware of homelessness as a societal issue;
- begin to develop empathy for people experiencing homelessness;
- understand that people have negative attitudes;
- explore issues of prejudice and stereotypes;
- recognise if they have stereotypical or prejudiced attitudes; and
- know some factors that can cause people to become homeless.

Resource

Resource 2.3: What are your Daily Routines?

Vocabulary

Needs, wants

Divide the class into groups of five. Give each group **Resource 2.3: What are your Daily Routines?** and ask them to discuss their daily routines.

Ask your pupils to consider how their daily routines may be different if they did not have a home. Ask them to refer to these questions in their discussion:

1. Where would you sleep?
2. Where would you wash, brush your teeth?
3. How would you cook or get food?
4. How would you stay dry?
5. Where would you do your homework?
6. Where would you keep your belongings such as clothes and toys?
7. Would your friends be able to visit you?



Realities of Homelessness

Encourage your pupils to express their thoughts and feelings on the effects not having a home may have on their daily routine or life. Ask them to consider these questions:

- How would they feel?
- What might other people think of them?
- What would they miss the most from their daily routine?
- Who would they miss most?



Reflection

Highlight to your pupils that people who are homeless face daily challenges to meet their basic needs. Ask them if they are aware of any organisations or charities that provide support to those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. Examples may include:

- Simon Community or DePaul providing food, support and shelter;
- soup kitchens that provide regular food and drink; or
- initiatives to raise awareness and support, such as fundraising sleep outs.