We believe every child should have an equal chance to learn, and to live their dreams.
Welcome to Hands across the World!

There are still 260 million children missing out on education in our world!

This practical and exciting resource opens up the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a global neighbour.

Through stories and activities, explore some of the challenges that make it difficult for many children to complete their education.
An activity to start

Set up a Community of Enquiry activity using the six photos in the pocket of this pack or as a PowerPoint presentation. Download the photos at: caid.org.uk/schools/

Set-up

Put each photo in the centre of a large sheet of paper, which pupils can write on. Split the class into groups and give each group a photo to consider.

• What do you notice?
• What interests you?
• What is puzzling?
• What do you like?
• What questions do you want to ask?

Children write ideas and questions around the photo. One group at a time, invite the children to walk around the room silently and look at each other’s photos and the comments written.

Discuss

What do all the photos have in common?

Children may identify several right answers. We want to focus on one: they all include pictures of people’s hands.

Tell the children that these photos are going to help them learn about children and young people across the world, and to consider how we can be good global neighbours.

Decide as a class on the most interesting questions to ask about each photo.

Put the photos on a display board with a selection of the questions generated by pupils.

As you work through the pack over the week, add information, reflections or questions to the display.

Something to think about

Either show a close-up picture of hands on the IWB or ask each child to create their own hand or finger print.

Look closely at the hand picture - did you know that every human being has a unique finger print? Every human being is totally and fantastically unique! Every one of us, wherever we are born, has a different set of skills, gifts and talents to share with our family, friends and community. Isn’t that amazing?

Provide an opportunity for pupils to talk about their individual gifts and talents. Let them encourage one another to identify the things they are good at. If pupils have made hand or finger prints, they could add some words around the print on the theme of ‘Wonderful Me!’
This assembly outline focuses on the work of Christian Aid and their partners in Sierra Leone. It can be used as the focus for Christian Aid Week. Collective Worship material is also provided; this can be used separately or in combination with the material below, if appropriate to your school.

Show Slide 1
I wonder who these hands belong to? I wonder why they are holding the baby? I wonder what each of these people are thinking? I expect they may be thinking about how beautiful the baby is and about how special and unique each new-born baby is. I expect they have hopes for this baby's future life. What sort of things do you think they might hope for?

Provide an opportunity for some paired discussion and then share ideas. Hopes might include good health, to have friends, to go to school, to develop individual gifts and interests.

This baby, like you and me, is unique and special and has all the potential inside them to develop skills, gifts and talents. Each baby that is born into the world has within them this special and unique potential - but not every baby can realise the unique possibilities for their life. In some parts of the world, there are barriers which make it difficult for children to achieve their dreams.

I wonder if you can think about some of the things that help a person develop their individual skills and talents? Share some ideas.

One of the most important ways we do this is through education and the opportunity to go to school safely. Sometimes you may not feel like coming to school or you may not enjoy the subject you are learning about. But school is one of the most important ways in which we can be encouraged and enabled to develop our gifts and talents – some of the things that make each one of us ‘uniquely me’! Sometimes education transforms our lives when we discover something new that we can do or enjoy; it makes us feel that we can live our lives more fully.

World leaders think that education is important too – so much so, that they have promised that by 2030 every child in the world should be able to go to primary and secondary school [Sustainable Development Goal number 4]. They believe that every child has the right to a good education so that they have more chances in life. That includes work opportunities as adults, better health, and the opportunity to participate in the political system in their community.

However, there is a lot of work to do to achieve this goal – across the world there are still over 260 million children missing out on education. That’s a lot of children!

Show Slide 2
This week is Christian Aid Week. It is a time to learn about the importance of education; to speak up for the millions of children missing out on education; and to raise money to support communities in providing education for all.

To understand more, we are going to meet Rejoice and Kadiatu from Sierra Leone, a country in West Africa.

Show Slide 3
Rejoice is 16 years old and Kadiatu is 11. Rejoice wants to be a lawyer when she grows up, and Kadiatu dreams of becoming a doctor. In Sierra Leone it is common for girls to leave school at a young age, which means they cannot complete their education and reach their dreams. It is also common for more boys to go to school than girls. There are several reasons for this: some families can’t afford to send their girls to school, or buy uniforms and books; some girls must go to work to earn money for their family; and some girls get married at a very young age, which means they can no longer go to school or college.
This is Rejoice.

When Rejoice was younger, she was sent to live far away from home. Instead of going to school, she had to work to bring in money for her family to live. She was treated unfairly and couldn’t go to school:

‘I wasn’t happy about it,’ she said, ‘I wanted to go to school.’

‘I saw children my age going to school, and I admired them.’

Rejoice made a brave decision to go and live with her kind uncle, who then encouraged her to go to school.

Now, she is in a class with children much younger than her, but she doesn’t mind because she wants to learn.

‘School is good,’ she says, with a big smile. ‘If I’m educated, the future will be bright for me.’

This is Kadiatu.

Kadiatu is 11 years old and she has four brothers and two sisters. Her favourite subject at school is science and she enjoys playing football, basketball and skipping rope with her friends.

She believes that it is important for girls to go to school so that they can follow their dreams and make a difference in their communities.

‘Education is very important for girls. Every parent should send their girls to school.’

Kadiatu wakes up at 5 o’clock in the morning so that she is ready for school in good time. Before she goes to school, she helps with some of the household chores. School begins at 7 o’clock and finishes at 2pm. After school, Kadiatu changes out of her school uniform, washes it ready for the next day, and then helps prepare the family meal.

Like Rejoice, Kadiatu believes that education is really very important. This is Kadiatu’s message to us:

‘My message is we want to be educated too. Let them know that we, too, are here. Many greetings.’

Christian Aid is a charity which works with the world’s poorest communities. It works with partners across the world to make sure that girls like Rejoice and Kadiatu can go to school and follow their dreams. For example, in Sierra Leone, health clubs have been set up which help girls talk to each other and encourage each other to go to school.

Quietly look at the photo again. Every human being is born with hidden gifts and talents which are revealed as they grow and learn.

What new things have you learned this week? What are your special gifts and talents? How do you respond to knowing that many children are denied the opportunity to go to school and develop their unique skills and abilities? Can you think how we could help to change this? Are there ways in which you could stand side by side, hand in hand, with your global neighbours, and speak up for young people like Rejoice and Kadiatu?

Conclude by watching the Christian Aid Week film, ‘Kadiatu’s Story’.

If it is practicable, all join hands so that everyone is connected.

We can join hands together as a sign of friendship and of being a community. We can’t physically join hands with children across the world, but we can show our friendship and support through our words and actions.

I wonder, how could we make a difference to the lives of our global neighbours this Christian Aid Week?
These ideas can be used in conjunction with the Assembly material or for the delivery of separate Collective Worship – either in Key Stage or class groups, or for the whole school.

Show Slide 10

Look at the picture on the screen - or at your own hands.

Did you know?

• Every person has a unique fingerprint and toeprint.

• Our hands can adapt to different temperatures quickly; they are covered with a waterproof protective layer - our skin.

• Our hands usually have 27 bones.

• Your thumb can work with each of your fingers to make complicated tasks easier.

• We can use our hands to communicate.

Our fingerprint is just one way in which we are unique. Look around the room at all the people here. We all look different - even identical twins have differences - and we all have our own gifts and talents. Isn’t that wonderful and amazing!

For most people, the belief that every person is unique and valuable is very important, and is reflected in the way they choose to live their lives.

This week we are thinking about the work of Christian Aid. It is a Christian charity that speaks up for and supports some of the poorest communities in the world. For Christians, the belief that every person is completely individual and valuable is very important. They believe that God made our wonderful world and that each person, being precious to God, has a valued place in it. There are many words and stories in the Bible which help Christians to think about this. Listen to some poetic verses from the Bible which inspire Christians - one of these verses is found in a poem written by King David and the other is spoken by one of the famous preachers in the Bible.

Show Slide 11

I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.

What you have done is wonderful.

I know this very well.

Psalm 139

Show slide 12

I am the Lord your God.

I am holding your right hand.

And I tell you, ‘Don’t be afraid.

I will help you.’

Isaiah 41:13 International Children’s Bible (ICB)

Look here. I have made you a part of Me, written you on the palms of My hands.

Your city walls are always on My mind, always My concern.

Isaiah 49:16 The Voice (VOICE)

Christian Aid works with communities across the world so that the world can become a fairer place for all people. They hold out a hand of friendship and support to many people - not just Christians, but those of all faiths, races and cultures.

Christian Aid’s work can help us think about ways in which we can become good global neighbours, and remember that every person is unique and should be valued.
Reflection

Look around the room and notice all the different people in your school/class. Think about just one or two people and give thanks for their special gifts and talents. We all feel encouraged when a friend or carer tells us why we’re important to them, or points out something that we shine at. I wonder, is there someone you could encourage today? Try to find an opportunity this week to tell one of your friends or family members why you think they are special.

If appropriate: listen to/sing the song:
• ‘Written on the palm of God’s hand’ by Fischy Music.

If possible, learn the signing for this song and then sing and sign:
• fischy.com/songs/written-on-the-palm-of-gods-hand/ [sample]

Other possible songs include:
• ‘He’s got the whole world in His hands’
• ‘The family of man’
• ‘If I had a hammer’

See ‘The Complete Come and Praise’, BBC Active.

Optional closing prayer

Father God, help us to hold out a hand of friendship and support to our global neighbours across the world.

Amen.

Class Collective Worship – Reflection

If you use this material for class collective worship, you could include a reflective activity.

Using coloured paper, children draw around their hands (to the wrist) and cut around the shape. As they do, ask them how they could act or speak out to show friendship and support to Kadiatu, Rejoice and their global neighbours. Maybe they could write a word or message on the cut-out.

The hand-shapes can be glued, stapled or taped onto string to make bunting, or placed around an image of the globe, as a poster.

SMSC/RME links: Taking the themes further

Having reflected on the uniqueness of each person, spend some time thinking about the importance of community and how we can all work together to build a world of peace and justice for all people:

• Continuing with the image of hands, discuss how we use our hands for communication. Talk about the way in which different communities use their hands to greet one another and how we can use our hands to communicate.

• Learn how Braille and Sign Language work.

• Human beings can use their hands for good [to help or show kindness] or for harm; to build up or to destroy. Perhaps this theme could be explored through a drama/dance activity. You could use the photos from the resource pack as a discussion starter.

• Our hands can be used to create beautiful objects and works of art. Study the work of a chosen artist. Create artworks using pencil, paint, pastel, clay or recycled objects.

• View some of the work of Eşref Armağan, a Turkish artist who, although born blind, uses his hands to paint wonderful pictures. esrefarmagan.com/

• If you have access to a terracotta ‘Circle of Friends’ artefact, discuss its symbolism and how it celebratesthe sharing of friendship. Use a battery-powered candle to show how it works. Use it during a ‘circle time’ activity to share the aspects of the school day that you most want to celebrate with one another.
Obstacles to Education

Obstacle race

Divide the children into teams and organise several races for each team to compete in. Make the first race a simple running race but then follow this by two races that involve navigating obstacles or stopping to do a task.

- Try creating a relay race in which children carry multiple sealed plastic milk bottles (can be empty or part filled with water), footballs or hula hoops around a course.
- Half-way through, they need to stop and pick up an essential school item, like a bag, a pile of books or an item of school uniform.
- The winner MUST carry the milk jugs over the finish line.

Discussion

Sit in a circle and discuss which race was the easiest to win or to complete. Explain that, for many young people in the world, the opportunity to go to school for primary and secondary education is filled with obstacles and challenges. The opportunity to learn is made much harder by these barriers to education.

Now share ideas and make a mind-map of the things needed to ensure all children can access safe education – think about school facilities, personal health, family support, and peace. Discuss how you could speak up or act to support young people everywhere to have access to education.

Design task

Organise pupils into groups and give each group between one and three case studies to read, as appropriate, about children living in Sierra Leone – they could also look at the Christian Aid Week PowerPoint presentation or film again.

Pupils read the material and identify obstacles to education – highlight these on the case study sheets or write/draw examples on pieces of card.

Ask each group either to design a game to help people understand more about these obstacles, or to find another way of presenting this information. Share your learning with another class or as a presentation for parents/carers.

The material and the campaign action information produced by Send My Friend to School would be a useful additional resource for this task. The website sendmyfriend.org has several real-life stories about children in different parts of the world, which you could use in this task.
School in Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, it is common for girls to leave school at a young age.
This means they cannot finish their education and reach their dreams and potential.
It is more common for boys to go to school than girls.

There are several reasons for this:
• some families can’t afford to send their girls to school, to buy uniforms and books
• some girls must work to earn money for their family
• some girls get married at a very young age, which means they can no longer go to school or college.

Meet Kadiatu

Kadiatu is 11 years old and has four brothers and two sisters. Her favourite subject at school is science, and she enjoys playing football, basketball and skipping rope with her friends. She wants to be a doctor when she grows up.

She believes that it is important for girls to go to school, so they can follow their dreams and make a difference in their community.

Kadiatu wakes up at 5 o’clock in the morning so she is ready for school on time. Before she goes to school, she helps with the household chores. School begins at 7 o’clock and finishes at 2 in the afternoon. After school, Kadiatu changes out of her school uniform, washes it ready for the next day, and then helps prepare the family meal. She goes to bed at 7pm.

‘Education is very important for girls. Every parent should send their girls to school.’

Kadiatu’s story, and the stories of Rejoice and Patricia on the next page, can be downloaded and printed OR use the pdfs on your interactive whiteboard. caid.org.uk/schools/
Meet Rejoice

Rejoice is 16 years old. She wants to be a lawyer when she grows up.

‘School is good,’ she says. ‘If I’m educated, the future will be bright for me.’

When Rejoice was younger, she was sent to live far away from home. Instead of going to school, she had to work to bring in money for her family to live. She was treated unfairly and couldn’t go to school.

‘I wasn’t happy about it,’ she said, ‘I wanted to go to school.’

‘I saw children my age going to school, and I admired them.’

Rejoice made a brave decision to go and live with her kind uncle, who then encouraged her to go to school.

Meet Patricia

Patricia is 12 and the youngest of eight brothers and sisters.

The land around her town is ideal for farming - but many people can’t grow enough to eat. This is partly because Sierra Leone is recovering from a civil war.

Many people were killed; many more had to run away. The war ended in 2002, but it has taken a long time to repair homes and farmland – and to repair trust between people who were caught up in the fighting.

In Patricia’s town, a development committee is getting people working together. The committee needs to listen to everyone, including young people.

Patricia knows exactly what she wants. She’s studying so that one day she can become Sierra Leone’s first female president.

She says, ‘I would feel so proud. I want to read enough so that I have the ability to be president.’

People with big plans need lots of energy and somewhere to study. So growing enough food for everyone is important. The town also needs a new school. The old one isn’t safe: cracks in the walls, ceilings falling down, and termites nesting in the classroom!

The committee got support from one of Christian Aid’s partners, which provided tools to rebuild the school. Patricia is excited:

‘We are happy that the roof is new, so the rain will not drop on our books.’ She has more plans, though: ‘What we would like next is a school band!’

Further information about Patricia and her friends can be found at:
christianaid.org.uk/schools/global-explorers
Supporting global citizenship education:

For more school resources visit: christianaid.org.uk/schools

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Community of Enquiry activity

Further copies of the photos can be downloaded from: caid.org.uk/caw19/schools
This Christian Aid Week, your gift could help send girls like Kadiatu and Rejoice to school.

Your gift could improve hygiene, so children can fight off diseases and stay healthy.

£2 could buy an exercise book
£7 could buy a school bag
£8 could buy a girl's school uniform
£80 could buy uniforms for 10 girls
£3 could buy a hand-washing bucket
20p could buy hand-washing soap

Visit cawek.org and cawek.org/brekkie to find out more and download free fundraising resources.