

Our National Flag - a Symbol of Pride in our Country.

Subject: SPHE

Class Level: Middle/Senior Primary

Strand: Myself and the wider world; Myself

Strand Unit: Developing citizenship ; Self Identity

Objectives:

- be aware of the importance of mutual respect and sensitivity to the different values and attitudes held by others
- become aware of elements of his/her own cultural heritage and traditions
- develop further the ability to express personal opinions, thoughts and ideas and listen to, respect, think about and comment critically and constructively on the views of others

Integration: History, language development;

Differentiation: Adjust the number of photos used according to the age and ability of your students.

Differentiation through teaching style.

Activity: Discuss the use of the Irish Flag in photographs and decide whether the flag is being used with respect or not.

The photographs can be printed and divided into sets for each group of 4-6 children. In their groups, children can discuss whether the flag is being treated with respect and pride in each image. The information under each image can be used by the teacher to prompt and support the children in their discussion. They can then rank the photos according to their opinion and discuss their findings with the other groups in a whole class discussion.

Alternatively:

Working with the entire class, explore pupils' understanding of a symbol by drawing their attention to the flag on the whiteboard

Ask the following questions to structure the discussion:

- Where else have you seen the Irish flag? (e.g., at home, government buildings, on TV, etc.)
- When have you seen a lot of Irish flags flying in many places around the world? (e.g. St Patrick's Day)
- Why do you think people fly the Irish Flag?

What does it mean?

Acknowledge students' responses about the flag's meaning and introduce the word, "symbol". Tell students that the flag is a symbol— something that stands for or represents something else. So everything you said about the flag you could say about our country.

Tell students that symbols make people feel certain emotions.

How does the Irish flag make you feel? (e.g., proud, happy, etc.)

So how should we treat the flag then? (with respect).

How do we show respect for the flag?

Inform the children that the Dept of An Taoiseach as a list of guidelines as to how to use the flag with respect. - can we guess any?

Explain that in this activity, students will be taking a closer look at how and when people use the Irish flag. We will discuss whether we believe the picture shows respect for the flag or not. We will place each picture on a scale where 0 is no respect and 10 is great respect.

Picture 1 -



Where is the photo taken? (Poland 1913;Poland v Ireland)

Who is in the photo?(an Irish football fan, Polish soldiers)

How is the flag being used?

Does the man holding the flag have respect for the flag?

Do we feel he is treating the flag with respect?

Inform the children about the guidelines from the Dept. of an Taoiseach - (The National Flag should never be defaced by placing slogans, logos, lettering or pictures of any kind on it, for example at sporting events.)

How do we feel about the picture now?

Show of hands - Place the flag on the scale at a point chosen by the majority.

Picture 2



Where is the photo taken?

Who is in the photo?

How is the flag being used?

Does the man speaking have respect for the flag?

Do **we** feel he is treating the flag with respect?

What do we think the guidelines of An Taoiseach would say about using the flag in this situation? - (When displayed on a platform, the National Flag should be above and behind the speaker's desk.)

Show of hands - Place the flag on the scale at a point chosen by the majority.

Picture 3



Where is the photo taken? (London Olympics, 2012)

Who is in the photo? (Katie Taylor)

How is the flag being used?

Do we feel the person holding the flag feels respect for the flag?

Do we feel she is treating the flag with respect?

The Dept. of An Taoiseach says - Care should be taken at all times, including when raising or lowering, to ensure that the National Flag does not touch the ground, trail in water or become entangled in trees or other obstacles.

Do we think those guidelines are observed?

Show of hands - Place the flag on the scale at a point chosen by the majority.

Picture 4



Where is the photo taken?(Lebanon,2011)

Who is in the photo? (Irish UN peacekeeping soldiers)

"The United Nations is the unique and indispensable forum where the peoples of the world share their collective concerns and determine to take action to make the world a better and a safer place". Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs (Eamon Gilmore), 28 September 2013, UN General Assembly New York.

Our membership of the United Nations has been central to Ireland's foreign policy since we joined in 1955.

How is the flag being used? (Discreetly on the shoulder of the soldier's uniform)

Do the men in this picture show respect for the flag?

Do **we** feel they are treating the flag with respect?

The Dept of An Taoiseach says - The National Flag when used as a decoration should always be treated with due respect. It may be

used as a discreet lapel button or rosette or a small version may be used as part of a centrepiece for a table.

Should they wear the flag on this uniform? (They are part of an army and may be involved in active combat)

Show of hands - Place the flag on the scale at a point chosen by the majority.

Picture 5



Where is the photo taken? - (Derry)

What is in the photo? (Bonfire decorated with the Irish Flag)

How is the flag being used?

Are the people who built this showing respect for the flag?

Why do you think this is happening?(In Northern Ireland on the night before the Twelfth of July, protestants celebrate the victory of the Protestant King William of the Catholic King James in 1690.

On this night, large towering bonfires are lit in many Protestant/loyalist neighbourhoods in Northern Ireland. The flag of Ireland and Catholic symbols are burnt on many bonfires. There have been attempts recently to make the event more family-friendly and environmentally-friendly).

Show of hands - Place the flag on the scale at a point chosen by the majority.

Picture 6



What is in the photo?

Who has the tattoo on their shoulder?

What kind of a person are they?

Do we feel he/she feels respect for the flag?

Do we feel they have the right to wear our flag on their shoulder?

(Do they represent our country in a way we would like them too all the time?)

Do we feel they are showing respect for the flag?

Show of hands - Place the flag on the scale at a point chosen by the majority.

Assessment:

Question the children - Do the people of Ireland use the flag in the way the Guidelines of Dept. of An Taoiseach would like us to?

Ask the children in pairs to write a new guideline to be included in the guidelines of the Dept. of an Taoiseach.

Guidelines should be written down and displayed in the classroom.