

Action Projects

This part of the course gives students the opportunity to implement the information from the classes in an action project.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to undertake action projects with particular emphasis on language rights.

LIST OF ACTION PROJECTS

1. Compose a language rights charter for the class.
2. Organise an exhibition about the use of Irish around the school.
3. Celebrate Europe Day on 9 May or European Day of Languages on 26 September. Of course, the celebration can be organised on any date.
4. Compile a booklet for use in the school library.
5. Organise a visit from the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga.

NOTES FOR TEACHER

- The project can be undertaken during the course. It is not necessary to wait until all lessons are completed.
- One of the projects listed above is described step by step here and recommendations are made for the four other projects.
- Students may have other suggestions for action projects which can also be used once the approach listed here is followed.
- The action projects should be linked to the lessons on language rights awareness which students have been studying.
- The entire class should work on the same project.

ORGANISATION OF ACTION PROJECTS

- Students should be divided into groups of various committees. Each committee should comprise about 3 students.
- Each student on the various committees should be given a specific task.
- Each committee will have to write a report about their role in the project.
- Every week, each committee will have to report to the class on the work they have undertaken to date and what they have yet to do.
- Every student in the class will have to keep a record of the work undertaken while the project is ongoing.

1. Language Rights Charter for the Class

Aim:

That students will be able to compose a charter of language rights for their class.

Research Committee:

This group will conduct research about the language rights which are necessary for the class.

Questions Committee:

Once the research has been completed, this group will compile a questionnaire for other students in the school to find out about the language rights they want and feel they don't currently have.

Survey Committee:

This group will carry out a survey of other students in the year or in the school to obtain the relevant information about language rights from them.

Results Committee:

This group will compile all the results from the survey and will provide the information to the Art Committee.

Art Committee:

This group will design posters based on the results of the survey.

List of Rights:

- Right to use your own language.
- Right to see signs in your own language.
- Right to get services in your own language.
- Right to have books available in your own language.

2. Exhibition about the use of Irish around the school

Notes for Teacher:

- This exhibition may be displayed in the school or used for an Open Day in the school.
- In this example, we are using phrases in Irish but any other language may also be used, for example any other language which the students learn or speak in school.

Aim:

To inform students about the Irish phrases they can use around the school.

Learning Outcome:

That the students will be able to use Irish phrases around the school.

Permission Committee:

This group will seek permission from the school principal to organise an exhibition in the school.

They will talk first to the school secretary to make an appointment to meet the principal.

Publicity Committee:

This group will arrange a meeting with the Student Council and make a list of phrases that could be used around the school. They will write an article for the school magazine informing students about the work being done for the project.

Translation Committee:

This group will translate the phrases into Irish.

They should get help from the Irish Department / teacher in the school.

Display Committee:

This group will display the phrases around the school.

Photo Committee:

This group will take photos of the exhibition to use in the article for the school magazine or for the local paper.

Organisation Committee:

Once the information has been compiled, this group will formally present the exhibition to the class and invite the Year Head, Deputy Principal and/or Principal to the launch of the exhibition.

3. Celebrate Europe Day or European Day of Languages

Notes for Teacher:

- This celebration can be organised on the appropriate days (Europe Day on 9 May or European Day of Languages on 26 September) or the celebration can be organised on any other date.
- An exhibition can be organised on European cultures or on general information which the students have about Europe or about a place the students have visited on a school trip.
- From the information which has been gathered, a table quiz about Europe could be organised.

Aim:

To inform students about different European cultures and the various customs of people in Europe.

Survey Committee:

This group will ask students in the class or in the school about places in Europe which they have visited. They will then have to collect information or photos about these places and give all the information to the exhibition committee.

Exhibition Committee:

When the information is collected, this group will prepare it for the exhibition.

Art Committee:

This group will find flags or pictures for the exhibition.

Food Committee:

This group will bring samples of food from different countries into school or maybe the food could be prepared with help from the Home Economics Department in the school.

Guest Speaker Committee:

This group will invite a person or persons in the school or in the area, who was/were born in another country in Europe or who lived in another country in Europe, to speak to the class about their experiences in that country.

Table Quiz Committee:

Having gathered information about Europe, this group can organise a table quiz so that students are given the opportunity to show the information they have learned about Europe.

4. Compile a booklet for use in the school library

Notes for Teacher:

Students can compile this booklet in Irish for use in the school library.

Aim:

That students will be able to:

- Compile sentences for use in the library.
- Create a booklet which students can use in the library.

Research Committee:

This group will collect sentences which they think are frequently used in the library.

Art Committee:

This group will draw or find pictures which would be suitable for the booklet.

Translation Committee:

This group will translate the phrases into Irish.

They should get help from the Irish Department / teacher in the school.

Booklet Committee:

Having put the sentences together, this group will compile the booklet. They may need to get help from the IT Department in the school.

Public Relations Committee:

This group will design posters about the booklet to create awareness among students in the school about it and to encourage them to use it.

Presentation Committee:

This group will organise a presentation ceremony for the booklet as part of a school assembly. All students should be present so that they will all be fully aware of the booklet and encouraged to use it.

5. Visit from the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga

Aim:

To get information about the work of the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga (Office of the Irish Language Commissioner).

Learning Outcomes:

- To help the students organise a visit to their school by a guest speaker.
- To help the students develop different skills, for example social skills, phone skills and computer skills.

1. Permission Committee:

- This group must get permission from the school principal to invite a guest speaker to the school.
- They will talk first to the school secretary to make an appointment to meet the principal.
- When a time and date has been arranged for the visit, the committee will ask permission from the teachers whose classes are to be cancelled as a result of the visit.

2. The Organising Committee:

- This group will contact the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga and invite them to come to the school.
- They will explain the reason behind the visit and outline their expectations for the visit.

3. Publicity Committee:

- This group will display posters around the school informing the school about the project being undertaken by the class.
- They will also give information about the work of the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga and about the importance of that work.

4. Room Committee:

- This group will ensure that a classroom is available for the visit.
- They will have to make sure that it is clean and that there are enough chairs.
- They will ensure that a glass of water is available for the visitor.

5. Questions Committee:

- This group will compile questions from the class before the visitor arrives.
- They will have to select students to put the questions to the visitor during the visit.
- They will have to forward a copy of the questions to the visitor before his/her arrival.
- There should be an opportunity to ask additional questions during the visit.

6. Welcome Committee:

- This group will welcome the visitor when he/she arrives at the school.
- They will take the visitor to the classroom where the talk is to take place.
- They will introduce the guest to the class.

7. Chairing Committee:

- This group will start the talk and keep the session underway.
- They will keep an eye on time and make sure that everything is covered during the allocated time.

8. Finance Committee:

- This group will collect money from the class to buy tea and biscuits for the visitor.
- They will buy a 'thank you' card for the visitor.

9. Food Committee:

- This group will organise tea and biscuits for the visitor after the talk.

10. Thank You Committee:

- This group will thank the visitor for the visit and the information given to the class.
- They will accompany the visitor from the classroom, thank them for their visit and forward a 'thank you' card to them shortly afterwards.

Teacher's Notes:

The teacher should contact the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga before the class begins to organise this visit. Depending on demand, the Office may be able to provide a guest speaker for the class.