



**Our FUTURE**

# Competition for schools

## Overview of Our Future: School Competition

The theme of this year's [Scottish Interfaith Week](#) is 'Our Future'.

To celebrate the theme we are asking young people about the values and social justice issues that matter to them. The 'Our Future' competition asks young people to:

- *Use any creative medium to explore a value or social justice issue and ways to take action.*

Any primary school class or secondary school pupil in Scotland can enter the competition and be in line to win a prize.

## Competition prizes

**Primary School:** Win £50 voucher for class entry

*Primary schools can submit one entry per class. One class will win the £50 voucher and receive a certificate. One class will be awarded a certificate as a runner-up prize.*

**Secondary School:** Win £20 or £10 vouchers for individual entries

*Secondary schools can submit multiple entries, one per pupil. One student will win a £20 voucher and a certificate. Three students will be awarded a £10 voucher each and certificates.*

## Submission format

Competition entries must be sent as a digital file (photograph, video or PDF) to [info@scottishinterfaithweek.org](mailto:info@scottishinterfaithweek.org).

If your file is too large to send by email, please send it by [WeTransfer](#).

## Deadline

The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Friday 28th November, 2025.

We want young people to be able to engage in the competition during Scottish Interfaith Week (2 – 9 November, 2025), therefore the deadline is a few weeks after the festival.

Submissions will be judged in early December and we will aim to notify winners by Monday 15th December.



## Religion, Belief and Values Award

While not affiliated with the Religion, Belief and Values Award, this competition could work well to continue facilitating students' exploration of these themes.

Schools could run the competition in conjunction with the RBV Award and use it as extra motivation for the Award's completion.

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## Any questions?

Contact us at [info@scottishinterfaithweek.org](mailto:info@scottishinterfaithweek.org) to ask questions about the competition or share your thoughts.

To be the first to find out about resources and any other competition-related news, please sign up [via Google Form](#).

*Interfaith Scotland established Scottish Interfaith Week in 2004 and continues to manage the festival to this day. You can learn more about our work through the [Interfaith Scotland website](#).*



## Lesson plan: Primary School

### Objective

Your class will have created, or at least begun, a creative piece for the *Our Future* competition.

### Introduction

- Introduce the concept of 'interfaith'
- Describe the competition and prizes
- Discuss examples of values or social justice issues (depending on age)

#### Value examples:

Sharing, being honest, treating others how you want to be treated (the golden rule), being helpful, respecting the beliefs of others, and standing up for what is right.

#### Social justice examples:

Everyone can go to school, see a doctor, get a job, have food to eat, and has the right to live free from discrimination for their class, race, gender, abilities or sexuality.

### Activity:

Here are some example competition entry ideas you could use and alter as you wish:

#### Write a poem about kindness

- Ask pupils for examples of kindness
- Write the examples on a board
- Use the examples as lines for the poem

Materials: White board

Discussion: What kind act will you do today?

*Note: Pupils could think of words that rhyme*

#### Make a collage about food security

- Ask pupils to take photos of their lunch
- Print out photos and create collage
- Alternative: Ask pupils to cut out images of food from magazines for collage

Materials: Camera, printer and paper, large piece of card

Discussion: How might hunger affect different areas of your life? What would it feel like not knowing where your next meal will come from?

*Note: Pupils could visit the school kitchen*

#### Film a short video about climate action

- Ask pupils for examples of climate action (recycling, planting vegetables, cycling, litter picking, turning off lights)
- Film pupils demonstrating actions
- Collate footage into a short video

Materials: Camera, editing software

Discussion: How might climate change affect our country and other countries in the future?

*Note: Free and easy video editing software is available in most phone app stores.*

#### Write a collection of stories about education

- Ask pupils about the best thing they have learned at school
- Ask pupils to write about what they learned and how it impacted them
- Collate the responses into a collection of stories about why education matters

Materials: Pen and paper

Discussion: What is something you want to learn in the future?

*Note: Stories need only be a few sentences*



## Lesson plan: Secondary School

### Objective

Pupils will have created, or at least begun, individual creative pieces for the *Our Future* competition.

### Introduction

- Introduce the concept of 'interfaith'
- Describe the competition and prizes
- Discuss examples of social justice issues

#### Social justice examples:

The right to education, a living wage, affordable healthcare, access to housing, food and water security, a climate-safe world, and to seek justice.

The right to live safely, without fear of discrimination or violence for your race, gender, sexuality, class, abilities, age, religion, nationality, or immigration/refugee status.

### Activity:

Here are some example competition entry ideas pupils could use and alter as they wish:

#### Make a protest sign

- Research protest signs
- Decide on an eye-catching slogan or fact about your chosen issue
- Write it on a piece of large cardboard
- Decorate the sign to make it stand out

Materials: Cardboard, pens

Discussion: What are some famous protests in history? What impact can protests have?

*Note: Make sure sign is legible from a distance*

#### Plan a fundraising activity

- Research fundraising ideas relevant to your issue, for example kayaking 20 miles to raise money for a river cleanup
- Decide what you will need for the fundraiser (location, volunteers, resources, online donation page)
- Write your plan so it looks exciting, you may want to include some illustrations

Materials: Pen and paper

Discussion: What impact could your fundraiser have on those affected by your chosen issue?

*Note: Inspired by your plan? Make it happen!*

#### Create a sculpture

- Draft ideas for a sculpture about your chosen social justice issue
- Source materials for your sculpture (such as clay, newspaper, litter, wire)
- Sculpt your design using the materials

Materials: Whatever you can get your hands on!

Discussion: What effects can art have on people? Can art move people to take action?

*Note: Check the classroom bin for materials*

#### Film a short video to raise awareness

- Research facts and case studies about your chosen issue
- Write a script raising awareness about the issue and ways to take action
- Record yourself reading the script

Materials: Pen and paper, camera

Discussion: How can social media be used to raise awareness? Is it the most effective tool?

*Note: Use real stories for the best impact*



## Teaching notes

### Interfaith definition (primary school):

When people of different religions and beliefs talk to each other, work together and sometimes become friends, this can be described as ‘interfaith’.

It’s important because when we are friends with each other, we are more likely to understand, protect and care for each other, regardless of our differences.

### Interfaith definition (secondary school):

“Interfaith is a term used to describe interactions between people of different faiths, and in some cases between those of religious and non-religious beliefs. Interfaith activity takes many forms, including dialogue; sharing a meal; sport; arts or cultural activities; roundtable discussions; panels; workshops; and working together to meet a practical need in the local community.” (UK Inter Faith Network)

By engaging with people of different religions and beliefs we can help to challenge negative stereotypes, resolve conflict, build trust and respect between communities, unite people to tackle social injustice, and much more.

## Interfaith social justice actions and movements

### Faith for the Climate Network

Faith for the Climate is an interfaith network of 325 faith-based organisations and individuals working for climate justice. [Read Faith for the Climate Network’s story](#)

### Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees began as an organisation of Christians, Jews, Muslims and interfaith groups working in partnership to support refugees coming into Scotland. The organisation continues to advocate for refugee rights and offer training and resources to refugee supporters. [Read SFAR’s story](#)

### Interfaith Prayer Vigil for the Climate

A large prayer vigil was hosted in Glasgow in 2021 during COP26. Religious leaders from Muslim, Pagan, Hindu, Bahá’í, Sikh, Brahma Kumaris, Jewish, Buddhist and Christian faiths spoke about the sacredness of the planet and our duty to protect it. [Watch COP26 Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Vigil](#)

### Interfaith Pilgrimage to Iona

Representatives of different religions in Scotland travelled to Iona to engage in dialogue on big issues including gender equality, the cost of living crisis, and the climate crisis. The pilgrimage marked the 20th anniversary of the Scottish Religious Leaders’ Forum. [Watch 4-minute clip by BBC Scotland](#)

## Further reading: Faiths and social justice

- [Langar](#) – free meals served by volunteers in Sikh places of worship
- [Tikkun Olam](#) – concept of social justice in Judaism, meaning ‘world repair’
- [Ahimsa](#) – principle of total non-violence in Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism
- [Zakat](#) – form of obligatory charity and wealth distribution in Islam
- [Stewardship](#) – principle of caring for the planet in Christianity
- [“The world of humanity has two wings”](#) – gender equality as core principle of Bahá’í faith