



Caritas Plymouth Intergenerational Project

September 2021 Update

The intergenerational linking project is Caritas Plymouth initiative in partnership with Plymouth CAST, funded by a grant from the Dunhill Medical Trust. This project is part of a national initiative: [Care Home Friends and Neighbours: Intergenerational Linking](#)

The project has now completed the recruitment phase and ten schools from Plymouth CAST and ten care home partners have made initial connections. Three schools were able to undertake some initial activity in the summer term but the main activity phase starts from late September. On 23 September Caritas is hosting a meeting of partner schools to discuss plans for the coming year.

I like science and my favorite food is pizza. Do you like pizza? Well I do and I also like History. It is one of my favorite subjects. Right now I am reading a book called 'The Secret Garden'. Have you read it? It is about a girl who finds a garden which had been locked up for 10 years! I also enjoy drawing and playing football.

That's enough about me, what about you? What do you like? Do you share the same hobbies as me?

twinkl.com

Caritas Project Resources

Grants to Schools

Funding for equipment and resources

Lesson Plans for the introductory phase

One to one visits and online meetings to share ideas and resources

Ideas for virtual links with Care Homes

Intergenerational library resources—research

One of the most frequent outcomes to emerge from intergenerational activity appears to be a positive shift in attitudes towards other generations.

Santini S. et al (2018)

Old age is not a shipwreck but a vocation.

Pope Francis 'The Blessing of a Long Life' 2014

Intergenerational linking project

Engagement process

Every Care Home and every school is different and how the partnership works will need to fit around each other's availability and capacity. Visitors to homes may be restricted and the Autumn term may need to focus on remote engagement.



- Care Home activity coordinators are likely to work school hours. You might need to plan for any face to face meetings at times that work for both home and school.
- Care Homes work in shifts. Activities will want to avoid handover times.
- Current government advice is that every adult (volunteers and visitors) who enters a Care Home should be double vaccinated. Schools and Care Homes should share their risk assessments.
- There are lots of ideas for remote activities if face to face activities are delayed—just ask Caritas if you need suggestions
- Sharing safeguarding assessments is important.
- Both parties need to be fully committed to the programme. Why not establish a simple document to agree this and the aims?

Current levels of inter-generational connections in the UK

Evidence suggests that currently intergenerational friendships are relatively uncommon in the UK. Traditional locations of intergenerational mixing are in decline, for example places of worship, community centres and pubs. As a result, Great Britain has become more age segregated over the last 20 years to become one of the most age segregated countries in the world.

The British Integration survey (2016) included responses from 4,265 people across Great Britain. It concluded that there is an urgent need to improve integration in this country. The current population is two to three times more likely to mix with their own age group than would be expected of the age range in their local area. This especially seems to be an issue for the younger population who were found to generally only mix with different generations through their family. The Community Lives survey (17/18) also found that nearly two thirds (64%) of respondents said that all or more than half of their friends are from the same age group. This figure was similar to previous years.

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What does research tell us?

Catholic Social Teaching teaches and reminds us that it is not just care and respect that older people need, but their autonomy, gifts, self-determination and participation in society do not, and should not, be taken away simply because of age. The research tells us that Intergenerational activities can facilitate opportunities for participation and learning. A review by the TOY Project Consortium, a global movement that promotes intergenerational learning, highlighted that older people provide a vital link with heritage, history and culture, which can give young people a sense of identity and perspective.

Young people can also play a role in developing older people's skills and knowledge by offering "a fresh, innovative and forward-looking perspective". There is also evidence of improved competencies such as reading, language, artistic skills among both the younger and older participants. In addition, the review found evidence that the young people involved in projects had increased motivation to learn and better academic performance and for the older people there was evidence of increased cognitive function.

Project Reporting and Research

Caritas Plymouth needs to enter data about all schools' activities in May, August and November. The data schools need to collect was shared in the first resource guide. A short questionnaire will be circulated on Teams for schools to fill in.

All schools will also receive a questionnaire from the research lead at City University before the end of September and another questionnaire at the end of the project. The questionnaires are designed to explore the pupils' perceptions of ageing and Care Homes and measure how those attitudes change over the course of the engagement. The questionnaire can be done as a group activity or in whatever way the school thinks is most appropriate. Participation in the research is not compulsory but we will get the anonymised results for our project as well as the wider outcomes and this could help Plymouth CAST understand the value and impact of this kind of activity.

There will be a similar questionnaire for Care Homes. Caritas Plymouth will be setting up drop-in sessions online for Care Homes to find out more about the benefits of completing the research. Again, participation is optional.

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Resources

In addition to the grant funding, we have a small pot of funding for resources for schools or care homes .e.g. art materials, IT equipment , external animators etc.

We can also help with documentation including risk assessments and other materials. It is important to think about safeguarding. Remembering safeguarding every step of the way in your activity planning will help to enable all ages to participate fully. Your care home will have a designated officer or team for safeguarding where specific support can be given on how you wish to shape your project and what key elements you need to have in place.

We have access to lots of research material and reports. Please get in touch with caritas@prcdtr.org.uk if you would like copies of material.

- **Suggestion boxes and wish cards**
 - **The Wishing Washing line**



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