



Lent 2019 - 40acts Generosity Challenge

Wednesday 6th March to Saturday 20th April 2019

Guide to 40acts in schools

What is 40acts?

40acts is a generosity challenge which invites people to do Lent a bit differently.

Lent is a tradition that reminds us of the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, preparing for his ministry on earth where he would ultimately give himself as a sacrifice. Lent finishes at Easter every year, so many Christians use the Lent period to spend time reflecting on Jesus' death and resurrection.

Traditionally we mark Lent by giving something up, but what if we could do more than that? What if Lent was preparation for a lifetime of generosity and serving others?

During the forty days of Lent, 40acts participants will be invited to take part in forty simple acts of generosity which will challenge them to 'do Lent generously' in 2019.

Small acts of generosity, performed by thousands of people across the UK and beyond, have the power to make a big change to our communities and, ultimately, to our world.

You can find out all about the challenge at 40acts.org.uk.

Why run 40acts in schools?

The idea is simple – during the period of Lent, as a whole school, you give something back instead of giving something up.

There are lots of great reasons to run 40acts in your school. Setting aside time to creatively help and care for others contributes to the spiritual, moral and character development of pupils, and it will complement the teaching of school values. 40acts is also a brilliant way to help the school demonstrate a positive impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). The challenge cards and assemblies also link to British values.

Please assure your staff that this project does not have to have a religious focus, unless of course that is appropriate for your school. We have provided alternative material within each assembly, and the challenge cards can be adapted as needed.

The resources

There are a range of resources available, so you can choose what will work best for your school and your young people. On our website you can find:

- ★ forty challenge cards, with a challenge for each day of Lent to help students and staff reach out generously to others in their school. It covers Monday to Saturday for six weeks;
- ★ an opening and closing assembly for the beginning and end of the challenge;
- ★ challenge card certificate;
- ★ challenge card category bingo game template;
- ★ PowerPoints for assemblies;
- ★ assemblies and materials from our 2016, 2017 and 2018 resource packs which are still available to download (for both KS1 and KS2).

Assemblies

We've created two new assemblies that can be used to launch the start and celebrate the end of the challenge. These will help the school community further unpack what it means to live generously, looking at how we might need to be brave to help others, and how we can continue to love each other in our school community when the challenge has ended.

Each assembly has a main theme, an activity to get pupils involved, a Bible story, a message, and a closing prayer. There is also a short alternative story if that would be more suitable for your setting, which can easily be swapped in. Try and set aside time in the closing assembly to share stories about acts of generosity, or to give out certificates to celebrate completing the challenges.

We have provided forty challenge cards, but feel free to write your own. How you use the challenge cards will depend on the age of your pupils and how much time you are able to commit to the challenges. Here are some ideas:

1 Complete the challenges as a class

You could set a challenge each day for forty days and try to achieve it as a class, or group the class into teams who have to work together to do it. This might involve working through the tasks in order or letting a child pick one out of a hat each day.

You could print the challenge card summary as a large poster and ask pupils to tick each time they do one of the challenges, aiming to have a tick in every box within forty days. This could also be done as a photo challenge where evidence is gathered in photos rather than ticks.

2 Complete the challenges individually

You could give your pupils the challenge card list and ask them to try and achieve each task in 40 days in whichever order they choose, ticking each one or colouring in the box as it's completed. With KS2 children you could provide the challenge card summary – KS1 children will need pictures to help them.

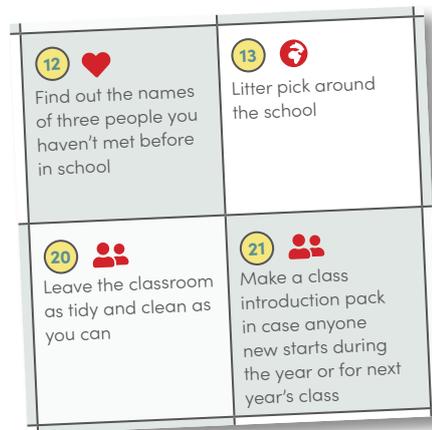
If the pupils work through the challenges at their own pace it would be helpful to discuss a different challenge each day as a class during circle time to check understanding, to encourage momentum, and to receive feedback on how they're getting on.

3 Category bingo

Challenges are grouped into categories. You could play category bingo, where children have to try and finish all of the challenges in one category to get a certificate. You could then use the final assembly to celebrate which class received the most certificates for each category.

You could group the children into teams and assign each team a category (splitting kindness in two!) so all forty challenges are completed as a class.

If you have multiple classes in one year group you could assign different categories to different classes, or across the school.



Categories:

- Gratitude
- Care for the environment
- Giving
- School community
- Kindness
- New friends
- Doing the right thing

Taking it further:

The hope is that after the Easter holidays the children may still be asking what their challenge for the day is. If they do, keep it going!

1 Journaling the challenge

KS1 children could be encouraged to journal their challenge through making a photo diary or drawing pictures. KS2 children could be encouraged to reflect back on their experience of the challenge, writing about what they enjoyed most, what they found hard, and which challenge they thought made the biggest difference to others. These reflections could be used to create a class assembly, which could involve parents and carers too.

3 Keep it going

You could discuss with your class which five challenges were the most important to continue on in the future. These five ideas could be made into a poster to display, or pupils could come up with five mini projects around each one to think it through in more detail. Alternatively you could ask the class to come up with five new cards, either to complete as a class or as a challenge for staff!

2 Think about impact

As challenges are completed you could invite feedback from children who have been beneficiaries of some of the acts of kindness or generosity. As a class you could discuss in circle time how that felt, or have a thank you tree where pupils can write thank you notes for ways others have shown them kindness during the challenge.

Acknowledgements

Kathryn Kendall has created the 2019 edition of our schools resource. She trained as a music teacher, and now works with charities to develop effective resources and projects (in between school runs).

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