

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the purpose of Remembrance Day
- Reflect on the personal significance of remembrance for young people
- Generate and structure ideas for a school assembly

REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY PLANNING SESSION (60 MINUTES)

Session Aim: To enable children and young people to explore the meaning of Remembrance Day for themselves and others, and to collaboratively plan a respectful and inclusive school assembly



RESOURCES NEEDED

- Poppy Scotland's video 'The Paper Poppy Story' Second/Third level CfE
- 'What remembrance means to me' card resource
- Assembly planner sheet resource
- Whiteboard/laptop to show video
- Pens, paper and post its



SESSION PLAN

1. WHAT IS REMEMBRANCE DAY AND WHY DO WE WEAR POPPIES? (10 MINS)

Instructions:

- Watch the Poppy Scotland Video 'The Paper Poppy Story'. Encourage the young people to take notes/write down any new learning.
- After watching, ask a few open - ended questions 'What surprised you? What part of the story stood out for you? Why do we still wear poppies today?'
- Ask young people to record on post its and stick on a separate sheet of paper to record.

2. WHAT DOES REMEMBRANCE DAY MEAN TO ME? (10 MINS)

Prompt discussion about the modern meaning of Remembrance Day

Instructions:

- Ask the young people to form small groups or pairs
- Each group receives a set of scenario cards
- Young people read the scenario and discuss the question prompts on the cards.

Participation worker to support learning by asking:

1. What is happening?
2. How does this situation link with remembrance day?
3. What would you want your school or peers to understand?

SESSION PLAN CONT

3. REFLECTION WALL: WHY DO WE REMEMBER? (5 MINS)

Allow young people time to reflect on why remembrance is important to them

Instructions:

- Give pupils post it notes
- Ask: 'Why do we remember?'
- Allow young people to write a sentence/statement/word that reflects their thoughts
- Build a wall or board with all the responses - this can be photographed or displayed



SHARING BACK: GALLERY WALL OR MINI PRESENTATION (10 MINS)

Groups display their assembly plans.

- Young people walk around, read each others ideas and leave comments (sticky notes)
- Alternatively, each group presents an overview of their assembly
- Young people will give feedback through two stars and a wish.

4. MAIN TASK: ASSEMBLY PLANNER (25 MINUTES)

Group work to plan remembrance assembly

Instructions:

- Give each group a large Assembly Planning Sheet (template attached)
- Explain that the assembly should be no longer than 20 minutes and could include:
 - Brief historical context
 - Personal reflections
 - Creative elements (art, drama, music, poetry, film etc.),
 - Silent reflection or something else to mark reflection
 - Closing section.

Prompt with questions:

- What message do we want to open with?
- How can we explain Remembrance Day in a simple, meaningful way?
- Do we want to include a quote, image or short video?
- Do we want to include personal experiences of marking Remembrance Day?
- What message do we want to leave our audience with?



POST ITS TO RECORD OBSERVATIONS



ASSEMBLY PLANNER

Welcome and Introduction

Who will open the assembly?
What will you say to welcome everyone?
Why is this day important to you and your school?

What is Remembrance Day?

How will you explain what Remembrance Day is?
Will you include any history or facts?
Will you mention modern-day service too?

What Remembrance Day means to us today

What stories, thoughts, or experiences can you share from young people or forces families?
How does it feel to remember today?

Closing Message

How will you end the assembly? What final message do you want people to take away? Will someone speak or perform here?

Moment of Silence or Reflection

Will you hold a moment of silence? How will you introduce it? Could you lay a wreath? Something else?

Creative Piece

What message do you want people to take away? Will someone speak or perform here?

Extra Elements?

Will you use a slideshow, video, personal message, guest speaker, or music? Who will help with this and when will it happen?

WHAT REMEMBRANCE MEANS TO ME CARD RESOURCE

At your school's remembrance assembly, the headteacher reads a poem about WW1 soldiers. You notice there's nothing in the assembly about people serving today - or families like yours.



- How does this make you feel?
- What could be added to the assembly to make you feel seen?

Your parent is currently deployed overseas. On remembrance day, your teacher asks everyone to write about what peace means, but it feels hard to focus when you're worried



- What would help other people understand your experience?
- How could you share this feeling with other people?

Your family marks Remembrance Day in a special way - you attend the local remembrance service in your town and your dad wears his metals. Remembrance services aren't mentioned in the school assembly.



- What do you do with your family on remembrance day?
- How could your story be shared in school?

During the two minute silence on Remembrance Day, a pupil asks loudly, 'Why are we doing this?' Some classmates laugh. You feel annoyed, but you also wonder if they understand.



- How might you help the school community reflect more meaningfully - especially pupils who might not know much about it?

WHAT REMEMBRANCE MEANS TO ME CARD RESOURCE

Your class is learning about the poem 'In Flanders Fields' from WW1. It's interesting, but you feel like no one talks about more recent peacekeeping operations/conflicts



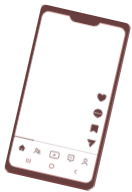
- Why is it important to remember recent service and sacrifices?
- How can your assembly reflect the whole picture of remembrance?

A classmate says Remembrance Day is 'just about soldiers.' You remember your serving parent talking about medics, engineers, clerks and chefs.



- What do people often forget about the Armed Forces?
- What could your group add to the assembly to enhance understanding?

You saw a remembrance post on TikTok that made you feel proud of your mum but another one had jokes that felt disrespectful. You're unsure how to respond.



- What does remembrance look like online?
- Could your assembly include something digital to share respectful remembrance?

You've been part of an armed forces family your whole life, but no one at school has ever asked what Remembrance Day means to you. The school does the same assembly each year.



- How does that make you feel?
- What would you add if someone asked you to help with the assembly?