



Assembly



7 billion and counting

Aim:

- To encourage pupils to consider their unique place in a world of 7 billion people

Introduction

7 billion people

According to data produced by the United Nations Population Fund, at some point during this Autumn the world's population reaches the figure of 7 billion. It's impossible to know exactly when the 7 billionth baby was born, because babies aren't born with a number attached. However, a number of babies have been chosen to symbolically represent this event. The first of these, Danica Camacho, was born in Manila in the Philippines last week.

Looking Deeper

One in 7 billion

How does it make you feel to be one in 7 billion people? An initial reaction could be to feel very insignificant. What do you and I as individuals count for in such a vast crowd of people? How can our voice be heard? What do we matter? Does anybody really care about me? It could all be a bit overwhelming. However, there are other ways to look at it.

Not one of those 7 billion people is exactly like you. There is no-one who looks exactly like you, acts exactly like you, thinks exactly like you, creates exactly like you, experiences life in the way that you do. You are totally unique. Your contribution to the lives of those around you and to the world

in which you live cannot be duplicated by anyone else. Even in a world of 7 billion people there is no-one else who can take your place. In short the world would be a poorer place if you were not part of it, and the more people there are in the world, the greater your sense of uniqueness.

On the other hand, 7 billion people represent a huge bank of resources that each one of us is able to tap into. The greater the population, the more chance there is that someone will be available for us when we need them. There are greater numbers of wise, experienced older folk, strong and energetic younger folk, parents to pass on their skills to each next generation, revolutionaries and peacemakers, thinkers and doers, musicians, engineers and leaders. 7 billion is a reassuring number of people to have supporting you.

But let's return for a moment to the initial response of insignificance. Despite our uniqueness and the range of support available to us there may still be times when we feel small, powerless and alone. Jesus addressed this very issue. He reminded his listeners that even tiny birds and wild flowers were under God's care, that he could count the number of hairs on the head of each one of us. The point is that Christians believe that each one of us is personally known by God. Our individual lives matter to him, he cares about us and our significance comes from this fact, even when there are 7 billion of us to care about.

Reflection

What makes you unique?

In what ways do you contribute to the lives of those around you?

How are you going to place your own stamp on this school today?



Current Affairs Assembly

KS3 Self awareness

Assembly



Prayer

Lord God
We each thank you that we are who we
are
Unique
Valued
Useful to those around us.
May we take our own personal place in
this world of 7 billion people.
Amen

Thought of the day

There is no-one quite like me, not even
amongst 7 billion.

Keywords

Population
7 billion
Identity
Uniqueness
Value