

## Organising a Peace Studies Day

A Peace Studies day is a great way to engage, educate and excite young people about the subject of peace.

By working with a variety of organisations covering a wide range of issues, a designated day can provide the perfect platform for your students to think critically about peace and peacemaking.

With suggestions about the structure, places to find workshop leaders, and other useful information, this guide will help make your Peace Studies day the best it can be.

### Structuring the day

Here we offer three suggestions for how to organise your Peace Studies day. Each of these options offers something different and can be used as proposed or combining elements of each with ideas of your own.

#### The Carousel Model

This model retains the usual timetable replacing the regular lessons with peace education workshops. The students move from workshop to workshop in their tutor groups and experience input from several different speakers during the day.

For a day like this you will need as many workshop facilitators as there are groups. These can be from outside agencies or staff from the school.

Advantages of this style are that it fits easily into the regular school day and students get a broad and varied experience of workshops. The principal disadvantage is the risk of workshop overload - five or six workshops in a day is rather a lot.

Many subjects lend themselves to lessons exploring peace themes so input can be in-house. One of the best we have come across was a science lesson exploring Alfred Nobel's journey from the invention of dynamite to the founding of his Peace Prize. This amazing lesson involved exploding jelly babies before going on to explore the ethical difficulties Nobel struggled with.

#### Indicative timetable

8:45 Registration  
9:00 Workshop 1  
10:00 Workshop 2  
11:00 Break  
11:15 Workshop 3  
12:15 Lunch  
13:15 Workshop 4  
14:15 Workshop 5  
15:15 Close

#### Indicative timetable

8:45 Registration  
9:00 Workshop 1  
10:00 Workshop 2  
11:00 Break  
11:15 Workshop 3  
12:15 Lunch  
13:15 Reflection  
13:45 Panel Discussion  
15:15 Close

#### The Themed Model

A day exploring a particular theme, which begins with a series of workshops to provoke critical thought, leading into a panel discussion addressing the theme of the day.

For a theme such as '*Can violence ever be justified?*' a selection of peace and human rights agencies, the military, historians, ethicists, the police, and others could be invited to facilitate workshops in the morning, with the students attending their choice of three of these.

After a session giving students time to reflect on the workshops and form questions, the workshop leaders take part in the panel discussion. This gives students the opportunity to hear a variety of opinions, to challenge what the panellists have to say, and clarify what they think about the topic.

The strength of this model is that the students are able to compare and critically evaluate a variety of perspectives on the theme. It involves careful planning to get broad range of views - from the pacifist to the soldier - to make the students' experience as rich as possible.

## The Conference Model

This style of Peace Study day relies on booking a high quality and inspirational speaker who can deliver the keynote address and take part in the Question Time session in the afternoon. Some well chosen workshop leaders can also join that panel to ensure a rich variety of views and experiences.

This sort of a day benefits greatly from the variety of style of input. Some talk, some Q&A, and a couple of workshop slots. It is also much more like an academic conference and as such is particularly appropriate for sixth form students preparing for university.

The quality of the keynote speaker is crucial. They set the scene for the day and need to be engaging, inspirational, and entertaining. You might look for someone who has a powerful story to share about their experience of violence, an experienced peace activist, or a campaigning journalist or politician.

### Indicative timetable

8:45 Registration  
9:00 Introductions  
9:15 Keynote Address and Questions  
10:45 Break  
11:15 Workshop 1  
12:15 Lunch  
13:15 Workshop 2  
14:15 Question Time  
15:15 Close

## Workshop Ideas

There are plenty of organisations which offer peace education workshops in schools. We recommend some here but there will be others working near your school and the local connection might be useful.



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International Catholic Movement for Peace

**Pax Christi**

[www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)



**CND  
PEACE  
EDUCATION**

[www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org)



**Quaker Peace and  
Social Witness**

[www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)

**ForcesWatch**



**Forces Watch**

[www.forceswatch.net](http://www.forceswatch.net)



**CRESST**

(Conflict Resolution Education)

[www.cresst.org.uk](http://www.cresst.org.uk)



**Veterans for Peace**

[www.veteransforpeace.org.uk](http://www.veteransforpeace.org.uk)



**Peace Education Network**

[www.peace-education.org.uk](http://www.peace-education.org.uk)



**Peacemakers**

[www.peacemakers.org.uk](http://www.peacemakers.org.uk)

## Pax Christi can help...



With much experience of peace education work in schools and colleges, Pax Christi is ideally placed to support the organisation of a Peace Studies day. We can put you in touch with speakers, workshop facilitators, and others who can make your event a great success.

Contact our education worker at

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