



Love your community

Peace First

A step by step guide to getting started



Welcome to the ChangeX Peace First Guide! Here you can learn step by step how to use the Peace First programme in your school. Good luck and let us know if we can help!

Eric Dawson, Founder of Peace First

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Introduction to peacemaking

Before you begin browsing the Peace First lessons, activities and how-to resources you should familiarise yourself with the essential vocabulary of peacemaking and get to know a little bit more about the Peace First approach.

The Peace First Digital Activity Centre (DAC) has everything you need to know in an easy to use digital format. Here are some introductions to get you started:

Learn more about the Digital Activity Centre, The Theory of Peacemaking and Peace First's Theory of Change:

<http://peacefirst.org/digitalactivitycenter/node/7>



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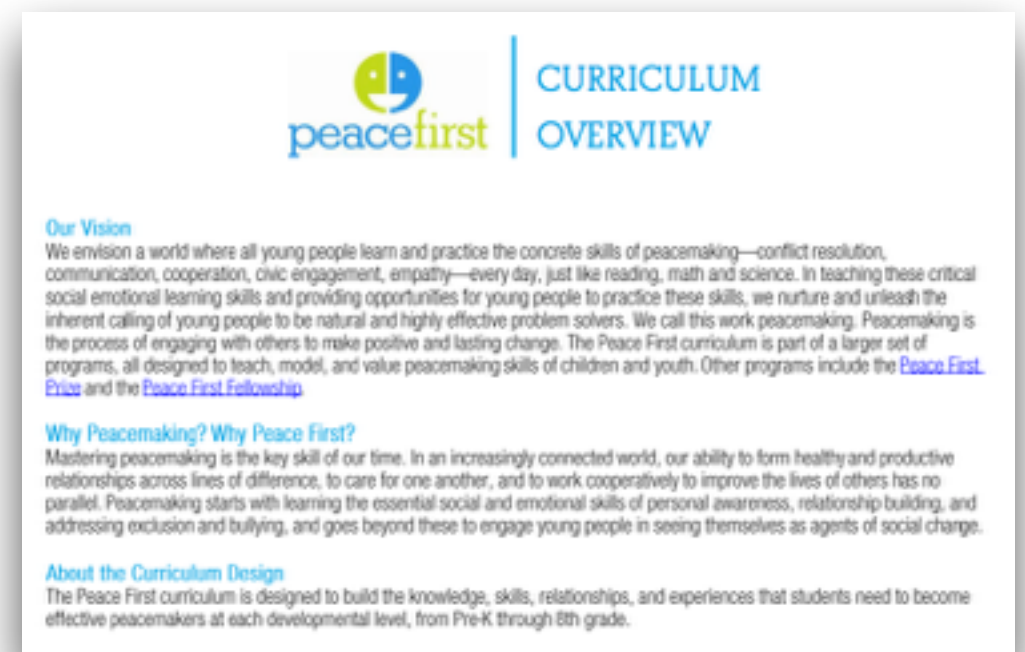
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Have a look at the curriculum

The Peace First Curriculum was originally developed in 1992 in partnership with the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Now in its 4th revision, the Peace First curriculum includes the experience and perspective of teachers and students at every stage of design, making it uniquely accessible, relevant, and easy to use.

This [overview](#) will give you a clear understanding of how it works for each class / age-group.



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Deliver your first lesson

Now that you've familiarised yourself with the programme, its background and ethos, why not try delivering one of the lessons in your classroom. Every lesson comes with a full guide, tip-sheets and activities. All you need to do to access the full suite of lessons is register as a user in the Digital Activity Centre.

The Digital Activity Centre has over 140 lesson plans and an equal number of cooperative games and activities to teach and model peacemaking.

You can sign up here:

<http://www.peacefirst.org/digitalactivitycenter/user/register>

Good luck with your first lesson!

Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions: Email niamh@changex.org

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Introducing games & peaceful rituals

As you begin to engage with the curriculum and use some of the lessons, why not try introducing some co-operative games and rituals to your classroom.

Cooperative games help students develop the essential skills of cooperation, communication, empathy, and conflict resolution by giving them an opportunity to work together toward a common goal. Everyone gets involved and has a role to play, imagine playing a game where everyone wins?!

Have a look at the [**Collaborative Games Toolkit**](#) for everything you need.

Establishing and practicing rituals in your classroom can help you create a peaceful environment and lay the foundation for your students to develop skills that will be useful to them in resolving conflicts peacefully throughout their lives.

Have a look at this [**Toolkit**](#) for everything you need.

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Deciding how Peace First fits in...

As you begin to engage with the curriculum and see the benefits peacemaking can bring to your school, it's important to reflect on the current needs and capacity for implementing Peace First's resources in your school. If your capacity is limited you may want to start by trying a few games and activities, rather than starting with the full curriculum.

However, if you think your school is interested in full-school implementation you should assess how responsive other teachers will be to implementing the curriculum. In some cases, it is helpful to pilot the curriculum with a few interested teachers before rolling it out school-wide.

Over the years, Peace First has learned that teaching peacemaking is more effective when an entire school or program participates and is invested in the results.

Peace First is committed to building partnerships with school that wish to implement on a wide basis. Training can be provided online through Skype or Webinar and sometimes through in-person training.

A small number of Irish school have already started using the programme and are rolling it out on a school-wide basis. To learn more, contact:

niamh@changex.org

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FAQs

Do I have to pay for this curriculum?

No, the curriculum, tools and resources are available free of charge.

Is it relevant in Ireland?

Yes, the curriculum has been reviewed by Irish teachers and is being used by a number of schools across the country. The Peace First team in the US is committed to providing the support and training needed to ensure that students and teachers across the world can access and use the Peace First programme.

How do you know the Peace First curriculum works?

Peace First has 20 years experience developing the programme and implementing the curriculum. Peace First gathers annual evaluation data using students and school staff surveys and school records. Quantitative data as well as reports from principals indicate that Peace First has effectively helped students learn and use social-emotional and peacemaking skills to help create a safer, more respectful school climate.

If you have any more questions, contact niamh@changex.org