

Just Do It!

101 Tips to Help Your School Embrace a Spirituality of Justice

1. Recognise Indigenous Traditional Owners at school functions
2. Celebrate the many cultures of the school
3. Have students develop a recycling program for the school
4. Houses "adopt" a Nobel Peace Prize winner and celebrate their birthday each year
5. Twin with a class/school from the developing world
6. Do a curriculum justice audit
7. Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flag alongside the Australian and school flag
8. Include a quote from Catholic Social Teachings in newsletters
9. Have inspiring justice quotes as screen savers on school computers
10. Invite different justice organisations (Caritas, Amnesty etc) to come and speak at assemblies
11. Play a Midnight Oil song at least once a term to your students
12. Organise a school immersion program
13. Students offer IT classes to the elderly in the community
14. Have monthly Edmund Rice Justice Awards for students who promote justice
15. Form an Amnesty Group
16. Each week teach students to say hello in another language
17. Organise a "Justice Books" display in the library. Invite students to make recommendations
18. Develop a whole school service and solidarity learning program
19. Serve East Timorese Fair Trade coffee in the staff room and at school functions
20. In Science and Mathematics learn about the contributions made by women scientists and mathematicians from around the world
21. Play a famous peace speech over the loudspeaker once a week – Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream", Nelson Mandela's "Inauguration Speech" Pat Dobson's "Reconciliation Convention Speech"
22. In times of fear in the world, celebrate humanity!
23. Offer placements in social justice organisations as part of work experience
24. Make it a requirement of being in a 1st's team that players need to do a number of hours of service activities
25. Use the justice calendar "Seasons of Social Justice" to highlight important dates in the morning notices
26. When planning a new building, liaise with the local traditional landowners
27. Display a "Make Poverty History" banner on school buildings
28. Release statements on important justice issues that are in line with the vision of the school
29. Recognise and celebrate students' contribution to the community
30. Offer scholarships for teachers to study justice and spirituality courses
31. On Student Free Days offer formation in Catholic Social Teachings, social analysis and liberation theologies
32. Invite students and parents to set up a Reconciliation garden/space/walk in the school
33. Highlight a different justice theme each term based on Catholic Social Teachings eg: Option for the Poor, Solidarity, Dignity of the Person, Stewardship etc
34. Organise talks, activities, service projects, curriculum ideas, fundraising around these themes
35. Form an Earth Charter Club
36. Sell gifts for Mothers Day, Fathers Day and Christmas from the Good Shepherd Trading Circle – a fair trade cooperative selling products from the developing world run by the Good Shepherd Sisters
37. Include justice, peace and integrity of creation principles in mission statements and curriculum documents
38. Challenge stereotypes of "underdevelopment" by highlighting the contributions of people from many countries and cultures
39. On Careers Days highlight Religious Life and long term volunteer placements (eg Edmund Rice Volunteers, PALMS) as viable, valuable and fulfilling life choices
40. Provide opportunities for both boys and girls to participate in diverse roles and activities
41. Provide support and opportunities for parents from minority backgrounds to become involved in all school activities, including decision making
42. Initiate a MAD Club – Making A Difference Club
43. Learn and play sports and games from other cultures
44. Have the whole school read Nelson Mandela's "A Long Walk to Freedom" – it will inspire the community and change the culture!
45. Where possible use renewable timbers in construction classes
46. Have students research who makes their sports balls – is child labour involved?
47. Develop a sense of optimism for the future. Remind students, parents and other teachers that we are all shapers of the future and we can make a difference
48. Provide cross-cultural training for staff
49. Encourage, affirm and support students – people with high self-esteem are more willing and able to reach out to others
50. Attend a Soup with Substance Night – Edmund Rice Staff Social Justice Network Gathering.

51. Adopt a class quote for the year
-eg "Be the change you wish to see in the world" Gandhi
52. Use the Bishops' Statement on the environment "Let the Many Coastlands Be Free" as a teaching and reflection resource
53. Provide "safe spaces" for students to reflect on their service and solidarity experiences
54. Develop networks among staff – share ideas, offer support, have a laugh!
55. Place a justice quote, statistic or picture as a signature at the bottom of your email
56. Promote active citizenship by encouraging students to contact their political representatives about issues that concern them
57. Develop structures that promote "student voice" and student decision making
58. Many parents and teachers have been involved in justice activities – invite them to be guest speakers
59. Have justice, service and peace building components as part of your senior leadership program
60. Join the Sustainable Schools program
61. Ask students in bands to learn five justice songs (Ben Harper, U2, Midnight Oil, Tracey Chapman etc) – have a justice Battle of the Bands Event
62. Start a Reconciliation Study Circle to learn how to further reconciliation in Australia
63. On all local and overseas tours (sporting, music etc) organise a service and solidarity experience for students to become involved with
64. Teach critical thinking throughout all subjects
65. Ensure countries from the "South" are highlighted in a positive way across the curriculum
66. Teach students, staff and parents the difference between charity and justice. Use the Two-Feet approach
67. Visit local community organisations and ask how the school service and solidarity learning program can support and work in partnership
68. Have a "Vinnies Formal" – students and teachers buy their clothes from SVDP shops and donate the money saved to a charity
69. Promote co-operative group work where students learn processes of negotiation and consensus building
70. Ensure the school is accessible to people with disabilities
71. Plant native trees around the school
72. In mathematics use statistics such as the Human Development Index (HDI) and other social indicators to highlight issues facing our world
73. Provide time at the end of these lessons to reflect on solutions and possible actions
74. In art make shopping bags with a justice message screen printed on them. It cuts down on plastic bags and spreads a message!
75. Have Past Students who have been involved in justice activities return and talk to students
76. Prominently display "Living and Working Together in the Spirit" the Edmund Rice National Statement of Reconciliation.
77. Provide opportunities for staff to reflect on and discuss the Commitments and Protocols
78. Sign up for Ozspirit – the global education email resource from Caritas. www.ozspirit.com
79. Share stories of hope and inspiration wherever possible. It feeds people's spirit and inspires them to act
80. In school marketing highlight the justice programs the school is involved with. This promotes justice education and ensures accountability
81. Introduce students to Cat Stevens' music – this generation needs it!
82. Visit a developing country yourself on the holidays – the stories you'll have will inspire others
83. Put a justice bumper sticker on your car – students, staff and parents will know that you stand for something
84. Install some rainwater tanks around the school – use on gardens or just for the great tasting water
85. Give old games a justice slant: global bingo, Who wants to be a J(justice)-walker etc
86. Connect with Comunidade Edmund Rice in East Timor, the Philippines or Papua New Guinea
87. Send letters to Brothers or volunteers working overseas and in remote areas. It often gets lonely and they would love the support
88. Do a combined service and solidarity project with another Edmund Rice School
89. Have a "justice word of the week". Teach its meaning and have a small award for the student who exemplifies it
90. Hold a Justice Movie Festival
91. Have students nominate social justice issues they are passionate about and help them to work out ways they can respond
92. Display New Internationalist magazines on the school foyer table
93. Find a volunteer project outside of the school that you can help out with. You'll find it refreshing!
94. Read some of Pope John Paul's II writing on justice and solidarity – they are both inspiring and challenging
95. Ensure all staff are included in the school life. Students pick up on the way staff treat other staff
96. Display the words for peace in at least 100 languages around the school
97. Remember important justice dates with a minute of silence
98. Organise some "fun-raisers" for good causes
99. Invite students to bring all their "violent" toys to school as a sign of peace building. Ritually dispose of them
100. Don't forget the importance of prayer – teach students how to pray for our world
101. Use your passion, take a risk, initiate your own idea