Peace Education in Action

Practising conflict resolution
Students brainstorm conflicts in their lives - such as those with siblings over taking each other’s toys or clothes. Students then act-out the conflicts and different approaches to solving them.

Win-Win
Simulation games are an enjoyable way to learn conflict resolution concepts and skills - such as win-win approaches to conflicts. Here pupils can win a prize if they get the other team across the line three times in fifteen seconds. Some choose to fight and neither team wins. Those that choose to co-operate find that both teams can win.

Resources & Contacts
Cool Schools Peer Mediation Programme
www.peace.net.nz/cool_schools.cfm
Ph (09) 373-2379

Eliminating Violence - Ministry of Education Group Special Education
www.ses.org.nz/specialprograms.htm

Global Campaign for Peace Education
www.haguepeace.org (See Peace Education)

Global Education Centre
www.globaled.org.nz Ph (04) 496-9563

Kiwa Kaha / NZ Police Youth Education Service

Kiai Can
www.kiicentre.telecom.co.nz

New Zealand Commission for UNESCO
www.unesco.org.nz Ph (04) 473-5536

Peace and Disarmament Education Trust
www.dia.govt.nz (See Trusts) Ph (04) 495-0387

The Peace Foundation
www.peace.net.nz Ph (09) 373-2379

Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour
www.minedu.govt.nz (See Special Education Services)
Ph 0800 622-222

Lions-Skills For Living
www.lions-quest.org.nz Ph 0800 800-353

Te Kete Ipurangi - The Online Learning Centre
www.tki.org.nz

United Nations Association of New Zealand
www.unanz.org.nz Ph (04) 473-0441

United Nations Youth Association of NZ
(inc. Model United Nations Assemblies)
www.unyanz.co.nz Ph (04) 473-0441

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Aotearoa-New Zealand 2003

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Creating a peace garden at school

Photos: Olivia Martin

Photos: Gil Hanly

Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.
With your basket and my basket people will be nourished.
Whakatauki (Maori proverb)

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Peace education is about helping students to understand and transform conflict in their own lives, in the community and in the world at large. It is part of all learning areas and is reinforced by people treating each other in positive ways in classrooms, playgrounds and in their families and communities.

Peace education aims to help students develop:

- solve problems and conflict in positive ways including through negotiation and mediation
- communicate feelings and perspectives and transform anger
- understand others’ feelings and perspectives
- cooperate with others
- think independently and critically
- take part responsibly in decision making

Skills, such as being able to:

- develop good relationships with others
- respond appropriately to discriminatory practices
- develop a sense of responsibility towards others
- develop the ability to negotiate and reach consensus.

Attitudes, such as having:

- concern for others and the environment
- honesty, trustworthiness and fairness
- respect other cultures, religions and lifestyles
- tolerance (rangimarie), generosity (manaakitanga) and compassion (aroha)

Knowledge of:

- how problems and conflicts can be solved
- the values of oneself and others
- human rights and responsibilities
- the roles and effectiveness of local, national and international organizations that promote peace and help solve conflicts
- New Zealand’s role in developing peace at home and internationally.

Aotearoa-New Zealand’s Commitment to Peace Education

The government of Aotearoa-New Zealand has demonstrated its commitment to peace education nationally and internationally in many ways including:

- Producing Peace Studies Guidelines for schools in 1986
- Establishing a Peace and Disarmament Education Trust in 1987
- Producing a brochure to inform parents about peace education in 1989
- Supporting the International Decade for Peace and Non-Violence for Children, 2000 - 2010
- Supporting the Global Campaign for Peace Education, 2000 onwards
- Participating in the UN Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education 2001 - 2002

Peace Education in the Curriculum

A peaceful classroom is a productive classroom

Peace education skills, including positive communication, problem solving and social and cooperative learning, are part of essential skills in all learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum and link to the strands in Te Whariki (Early Childhood Curriculum).

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There is no way to peace - peace is the way.

Mahatma Gandhi

Specific peace education topics relate to a variety of contexts in curriculum areas. For example:

- Students can explore peace and conflict resolution at home and in the community through literature, drama and art.
- Learning about peace between cultures can include an awareness of the contributions of different cultures - especially Maori as tangata whenua of Aotearoa-New Zealand society - an understanding of values which are shared and those which differ, and examples of historical disputes and their resolution.
- Students can understand the possibilities of peace through studying successful approaches to peacemaking, reconciliation and disarmament along with the causes of international conflict.
- The study of international conflicts can also include the roles of media and modern technology, and the positive impact of peace on human health, the environment and the economy.

Aotearoa-New Zealand’s Commitment to Peace Education

The Ministerial Committee of Inquiry into Violence (1987) noted that "Education is one of the most important areas where long-term measures to reduce violence can be implemented", and recommended "That all teachers at all levels be given opportunities to discuss and implement Peace Studies.”

"Learning outcomes: a range of strategies for solving conflicts in peaceful ways, and a perception that peaceful ways are best.”

New Zealand Curriculum Framework

Te Whariki (Early Childhood Curriculum)

Making origami cranes - the Japanese bird of peace

Photo: Gil Hanly

Peace Education and Violence

Students mediators in action - Takapuna Grammar School

Photo: Mark McNeill

Building trust and cooperation through a blind walk game

Photo: Gil Hanly

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Making origami cranes - the Japanese bird of peace

Photo: Gil Hanly

Peace Education in the Curriculum

A peaceful classroom is a productive classroom

Peace studies have been demonstrated to:

- Improve the classroom climate
- Reduce stress on teachers and pupils
- Enable pupils to work more productively
- Enhance problem-solving skills*

* Peace Studies in Primary, Secondary and Intermediate Schools in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Cathy Muholland for the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control, 1990.