

The Localise Programme at a glance

Session 1 YOUR LOCALISE CHALLENGE - What is it all about?

The localise challenge is about your class taking action in their local community in the service of others. The class will ask themselves "how can we be of service to others?" they will select, plan, organise and carry out a community service action project.

Session 2 GROUP CONTRACT

The Localise Community Service action project will only be achieved by supporting each other, using talents and skills and working together as a team. Every team needs guidelines and rules to help them succeed, this is the group contract. The contract should include agreements on cooperation, listening, democratic decision making and behaviour guidelines. The group contract should be signed by the class.

★ This is the first Localise key task

Session 3 WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

This session is about exploring the local community, looking at the people who live and work there, what organisations are in the area, what amenities are in the area, what types of volunteering takes place in the community and what volunteers do locally. We encourage you to invite a guest speaker to speak to class about community and volunteerism.

Session 4 DESIGN YOUR IDEAL COMMUNITY

In this session the class will imagine and explore their ideal community. They will identify key elements and services that are part of community life and, in teams; they will work together to design and create your own ideal community maps.

★ This is the second Localise key task

Session 5 PRESENT YOUR IDEAL COMMUNITY

Each team will complete an ideal community map and present it to the entire class. (It is a very good idea to invite the principal, vice principal or year head to act as a guest judge) The entire class will then have an opportunity to discuss and review the ideal community maps in the class. Small team prizes can be awarded for ideal community map work.

Session 6 TEAMWORK—YOUR OPINION MATTERS

The class will examine how to make value judgments about other people. They will listen to others and express your own opinions. The class will explore how to work together successfully as a team, even if you don't always agree with one another.

Session 7 HOW CAN YOU BE OF SERVICE?

The class will look beyond the classroom and into the community asking "how can we be of service?" and "who needs our help?" A Community Needs Brainstorm, where students ideas are written on the board beginning with the general (homeless, elderly, special needs etc.) then leading to the specific (The local Simon Community, The Active Retirement Club, The Daughters of Charity etc.)

Session 8 SELECT YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTION

From the brainstorm in the previous session it should become clearer who in the community needs your help and who that class would like to help. There are practical issues to consider with each suggestion i.e. can the hospital ward/elderly centre/special needs centre accommodate a class? By the end of this session the class should be ready to vote on their Community Action Project.

Session 9 PLAN YOUR COMMUNITY ACTION

It is now time for the class to specifically plan their action project. It is vital to identify roles and responsibilities for every class member and to develop a detailed plan for delivering a very positive action project. A good way to start is to create an overall impression of how the class envisage the action from the starting time to the end time, and work out the tasks and committees based on that.

Session 10 COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTION - FINAL PREPARATIONS

Who, what, where, when and how. From the list of tasks and the committees formed in the previous session, it is important that each student knows who is responsible for what and what is expected of each of them. By the end of the session all tasks should be complete and a final checklist should be in place.

Session 11 TAKE ACTION

It is now time to take action.

 This is the third Localise key task

Session 12 EVALUATE

Now that the action project is complete it is important for students to evaluate the over all project and their roles and responsibilities. Looking at each session and evaluating honestly what was done, what was done well and what can be improved on for the next time. Respecting all views expressed during this session will allow for a better understanding of how the action project was achieved. This will help the students with their Report on Action Project.

 This is the fourth Localise key task

Session 13 PREPARING FOR GRADUATION

The Localise Community Service Learning Graduation is a key part of the entire programme because it marks the end of the "Caring in the Community" journey, it celebrates the positive action project that has been done undertaken in the local community, it allows the school, parents and the wider community to come together to say "well-done" to class. The class will receive a certificate in Community Service Learning and a National Youth Volunteer School Card.

Session 14 FINAL ASSESSMENT

It is important to assess the Localise Key Tasks, the Group Contract, the Ideal Community Design, the Action Project, and the action project evaluation.

Session 15 THE GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation is the final part of the Localise programme where students are presented with their certificates in Community Service Learning and their National Youth Volunteer School Cards. The graduation can take place in your school, with neighboring schools in your local area or you can attend the national graduation ceremony which takes place in Dublin annually.