Linking Generations
Northern Ireland

An Ideas Guide from LGNI to Spark A Generation Connection in Your Community this Christmas

Spark a generation connection in YOUR Community this Christmas

The Covid Pandemic has had a massive impact on connections and relationships between generations in our families and communities. The LGNI Team has created this document to provide inspiration and ideas for education settings to help you keep generations connected this Christmas. We know you will be busy planning Christmas activities and we would love you to consider reaching out to your community and involving older people to bring joy through intergenerational connection!

Get to know Linking Generations....

Linking Generations Northern Ireland (LGNI) lead the way in connecting generations in communities across Northern Ireland. Our small team connects people interested in intergenerational work and inspires and supports them to develop their own intergenerational initiatives. An intergenerational approach is a great way to add value to existing work and achieve outcomes for people of all ages.

Why is intergenerational work good for your setting?

- It helps to achieve educational outcomes – see our research.
- Enhances the learning life of your pupil – communication, listening and skills for life and work.
- Easily links with your curriculum topics and existing school activities.
- Helps to celebrate diversity and be age inclusive reducing ageism.
- Brings generations together to create a more compassionate community.
- Equips your pupils with a better understanding of their community and world around them and to live full, active, valued and healthy lives as they grow older.
- Be a hub for your local community – Every School a Good School.

Want to Get Involved this Christmas?

If you think that your school would be interested in developing intergenerational connections this Christmas have a look at some of the simple ideas we have included to give you inspiration. We are always happy to have a chat and provide support just get in touch! Visit our website to see who to connect with for your area and to sign up.

Christmas Intergenerational Ideas

Each setting is unique with differing resources and opportunities, but you are in luck we can help to support you and tailor an Age-friendly programme or activity to benefit the groups you are working with and keep connections going.

St Comgall's Primary School in Bangor have been doing fantastic work to keep their intergenerational connections going in 2020. Have a look at their intergenerational connections video.
Keeping connected at Christmas

We need you to keep generations connected this Christmas and have some handy tips and ideas to get you started:

Virtual get Togethers

As we have all become wizards in the virtual world a virtual get together is a great way to connect people of all ages together, you could set up a time to gather people together, to sing songs, Christmas quiz, cook together or anything else that you are good at you can share with people online. We have had great success when holding our Virtual Get Togethers so if this sounds good to you, get in touch. More here

Kindness Postbox

Create and exchange Christmas Cards & letters between settings. You could even develop your own Kindness Postbox and share Christmas post between generations, connect with your local care home, sheltered housing or a community group to send joy and Christmas wishes. Here is an example Kindness Postbox Video

Shareable Christmas Crafts

It is wonderful to receive some Christmas crafts, so another easy idea is to create some shareable Christmas crafts. Make decorations, bunting, cards, hats, Christmas crackers remotely at the same time connecting online and compare your creations! Keep or exchange!

Have a look at our Arts Project that took place remotely.

Sing Christmas Carols Outside a Care Home

Everyone loves to sing carols at Christmas, most schools already have this in their calendar of events, it is a great opportunity to think bigger and go to your local care home to share this joy with the residents. As with all intergenerational work older and younger people have so many common interests so singing carols together is an easy one to get you started.

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Get involved with us all year round!

LGNI have invested and worked hard in developing a Northern Ireland wide network of supporters to help us provide support and our services. Our Networks bring together local people, communities, organisations, and policy makers interested in bringing generations together. We currently have over 600 members ranging from teachers, care home staff, community groups, council workers and housing providers.

Our services include:

- The coordination of a Northern Ireland wide network for those interested in intergenerational work
- A dedicated LGNI worker support in each council area to develop your intergenerational ideas.
- CPD accredited training and bespoke Intergenerational training.
- Small grants to support the development of intergenerational ideas.
- The development of resources to inspire intergenerational ideas.
- Meetings and events to showcase successful intergenerational activities.
- Evaluation and research of intergenerational work.
- Advocacy for intergenerational practice at a policy level.

Be part of our intergenerational movement by **signing up to the** LGNI Network and stay updated about our meetings, training, small grants and opportunities.

LGNI depend on our supporters to make Northern Ireland a more age connected place and we share their inspiring stories to inspire others! We are so excited to see what you get up to so please share all the fantastic work you are doing or plan to be doing!! Tag us on all our social media channels:

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www.linkinggenerationsni.com