

How can school communities help to prepare young people to be responsible citizens and live with fundamental values such as peace and tolerance of diversity?

We live in a world where words like tolerance, respect and sincerity are rather an exception than a rule. However there are still some school communities which try to coach pupils to live with these values.

They have different methods. One of them, which I believe is the best, is that students attend different activities where they are “forced” to work in a group. In this way they learn how to cooperate with others and they learn to be tolerant.

For example in my school students are invited to attend as many after school activities as they want. We can learn foreign languages, sing in a choir, dance, play different sports, join a drama group...

Furthermore, there is the so called Student’s Association at our school. This is a group of students who organize some activities which students like, and even more, it is a representative for all students at school.

As we are a Catholic school every class has a Spiritual Retreat weekend once a year, where students build good relationship with one another. We also start every school day with a prayer and finish it with one too.

The relationships between students and teachers are friendly, however we respect each other. For example we address our teachers formally and they do the same.

All these things create a positive atmosphere in our school. And as you can assume the values are present in our everyday life.

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