



sewa day

KS2 Assembly Presenter's guide



sewa day
schools



About the assembly

This assembly has been created as part of the schools programme to support Sewa Day.

The assembly will help you to introduce to pupils the concept of 'Sewa', or 'selfless service'. It is designed to support a series of lessons for KS2 pupils but you can use it with pupils of all ages.

About this Presenter's Guide

This guide gives you all the information you need to present the assembly, including biographical information, background on Sewa and Sewa Day, and suggested questions that will help engage and involve pupils.

Personalise the slides

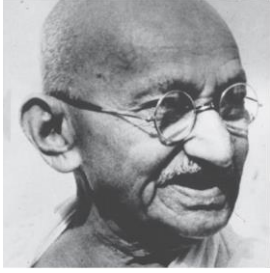
You may want to add a slide about a local person who has devoted their life to helping others in your community or who has otherwise made a big difference with no expectation of reward for themselves.

You may also want to change the images on the slide about 'We can all perform Sewa' to include photos of your own school and local community.

Songs about service

You may want to play some music that's about service to others. Here are some ideas:

- 'Lean on me' – Bill Withers
- 'Man in the mirror' – Michael Jackson



Mohandas 'Mahatma' Gandhi

Give a brief biography of Mahatma Gandhi:

- Mohandas 'Mahatma' Gandhi was born in India in 1869.
- He trained in London as a barrister (a type of lawyer who works in a court).
- Gandhi then moved to South Africa to work as a lawyer.
- He was appalled at how Muslim and Hindu Indian immigrants to South Africa were treated, including himself.
- Gandhi questioned how non-white people were treated within the British Empire.
- He organised and led a long campaign of non-violent civil disobedience. That is, he encouraged Indians in South Africa to defy laws that discriminated against them, and suffer the consequences.
- Gandhi was sent to prison over 20 times.
- Eventually the South African government was forced to treat Indians with more fairness.
- After 21 years Gandhi moved back to India.
- He was again appalled at how Indians were treated unfairly by the British Empire.
- Gandhi led campaigns to end unfair taxes, ease poverty, give more rights to women, build friendship between religions and give independence to the Indian people.
- Again he helped people protest through non-cooperation, non-violence and peaceful resistance.
- Gandhi was sent to prison many times in India for his views and actions.
- Gandhi didn't agree with how India was eventually granted independence in 1947, because the country was split into Hindu and Muslim nations and this did not reflect his wish for religious harmony.
- However, he played a leading role in creating an independent India.

Gandhi wanted all people to be treated fairly. Why do you think this matters?

Why did Gandhi want people to protest in ways that were never violent?



Nelson Mandela

Give a brief biography of Nelson Mandela:

- Nelson Mandela was born in 1918 in South Africa.
- Like Gandhi, he studied law at university, this time in South Africa.
- When Mandela was growing up, South Africa was run under a system called 'apartheid'.
- Apartheid means 'being apart'. South Africa was run by a government made up of white people. But black people, who make up most of the population, had little say. Black people were very poor and were kept apart from white people by 'apartheid'.
- They had to live in separate areas and could not share things like schools, hospitals or restaurants. White people enjoyed much better facilities and lives than black people.
- Mandela admired Gandhi and hoped that peaceful protest could end apartheid.
- In 1956 Mandela was arrested for speaking out against the white government and spent five years in prison.
- Although much of the rest of the world wanted apartheid to stop, South Africa would not change.
- In 1962 Mandela was arrested again and accused of plotting to overthrow the white government of South Africa. He was sent to prison for life at Robben Island prison. There, he had to do hard labour each day under the hot sun.
- Nelson Mandela never gave up his hope that South Africa could peacefully change.
- In 1990 Mandela was set free. He asked all South Africans to work together to create peace between white and black people and worked with the South African government to allow black people to vote for the first time.
- Along with the president who freed him, S W de Klerk, Mandela was given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.
- In 1994 Mandela became the first black president of South Africa.
- Mandela retired in 1999 but is still an inspiration to people working towards freedom and fairness.

Mandela never gave up, even when he was in prison. Why is it important always to hope?

Mandela didn't call for revenge against the people who had imprisoned him for most of his life. Why is it important to be positive and not angry when working for change?



Malala Yousafzai

Give a brief biography of Malala Yousafzai:

- Malala Yousafzai was born in the Swat district of Pakistan in 1997.
- Malala started school aged five and worked hard at her learning.
- The Swat district is badly affected by fighting between the Taliban, an Islamic fundamentalist political movement that uses violence, and the Pakistan government.
- In 2009 the Taliban banned girls in Swat from attending school
- Malala began writing a diary, which was published online by the BBC.
- Malala's diary spoke about what it was like to live through the conflict in Swat, her views on the importance of education for all young people, including girls, and the importance of freedom.
- Malala wrote about her hopes and ambitions for the future and how she was determined not to let the Taliban stop her from making her dreams come true.
- After a ceasefire was declared in Swat, Malala was interviewed by lots of TV stations and newspapers from around the world and she was able to share her ideas and dreams around the world.
- In 2011 Malala was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize, and was awarded Pakistan's National Youth Peace Prize.
- But in October 2012 a Taliban gunman boarded Malala's school bus and shot her. Malala nearly died.
- She was taken to hospital in Pakistan and then moved to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.
- Malala has undergone many hours of operations to help her recover from her injuries.
- Malala is now back at school and wants to become a politician so she can help bring about the changes she wants to see and help every girl go to school.
- She has written a book, 'I am Malala', to raise awareness of the tens of millions of children around the world – especially girls - who are not able to go to school.
- The United Nations General Secretary, Ban Ki-moon, has established 'Malala Day' on November 10th – a global day of action to highlight the right of every child, especially girls, to attend school.
- Before she was attacked, Malala was setting up an organisation to get more girls into school. The Malala Fund has been set up on behalf of Malala, to help girls around the world enjoy their right to education.

Malala feels strongly that every girl has the right to a full education. Why is this important – and fair?

Malala wants to become a politician so she can help make the change she wants to see in the world. How else could each one of us help improve the world?

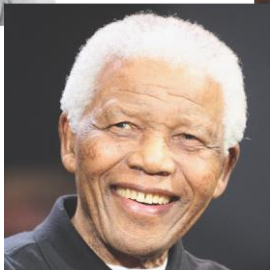
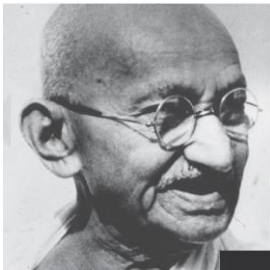


What do Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Malala Yousafzai all have in common?

Ask pupils if they can answer this question.

Help them spot that:

- they all saw that something in the world needed to change, to provide help to those who most needed it.
- they were prepared to devote their lives to helping others.
- they didn't want anything in return.
- they knew it was the right thing to do.



Ask if pupils can think of a name for what these three people did.

Ideas include kindness and service.



Sewa

Sewa (pronounced 'seh-vah') is the name for performing an act of kindness without expectation.

Sewa is a Sanskrit word (Sanskrit is an Indian language) that means 'selfless service'.

Sewa describes acts of service to help others, without any expectation of result or reward for the person doing it.

Sewa is just one way to describe a universal concept.

Many different cultures and faiths all promote the same idea – that it is good to sacrifice your time and resources for the benefit of others, without wanting anything in return.

Depending on your pupils and school, first ask if pupils can identify the same ideas of kindness and service from within their own cultures and religions.



We can all perform Sewa

Invite pupils to share ideas for how they can perform Sewa each day.

In school:

Help pupils link Sewa to your school's motto, ethos and values.

Ask pupils to share ideas about how they could perform acts of selfless kindness to themselves and to staff.

Share your own ideas on how staff could perform Sewa.

Sewa can include helping the environment. How can pupils perform Sewa in this way at school?

At home:

Ask pupils to share ideas about how they could perform Sewa or their parents, cares, brothers and sisters and other relatives.

Sewa can include helping the environment. How can pupils perform Sewa in this way at home?

In your community:

Ask pupils to think of groups who may be in need of particular help in your community. Ask them to suggest how they could perform Sewa for these groups.

Sewa can include helping the environment. How can pupils perform Sewa in this way in the community?

What small acts of Sewa could pupils perform to anyone they meet in their community – not just those who are obviously in need of assistance?



sewa day

Sewa Day is a catalyst for acts of kindness and public service. It is a chance to do something positive that makes a meaningful difference to someone else's quality of life.

On Sewa Day, thousands of good-hearted people across the world come together to perform Sewa and experience the joy of giving in its truest sense. By taking part together, we hope to water the seeds of Sewa so that acts of kindness and public service are performed more often.

Sewa Day will take place on 1st October 2017 and we invite schools to come together and perform an act of Sewa in your community.

Explain that your school is going to take part in Sewa Day and you'd like pupils to help identify one or more activities to take part in.

Explain how you'll do this and invite pupils to be sharing their ideas.

Tell pupils what will happen next.