

MISSIO SCOTLAND AND MISSIONARY CHILDREN

Missio Scotland is the Scottish branch of the Pontifical Mission Societies, the Pope's own mission charity that operates worldwide. The society that we promote in our schools and encourage support for is Missionary Children. Funds raised for Missionary Children go towards helping children in mission countries with education, health and wellbeing. We build and run schools, orphanages, hospitals and operate feeding and welfare programmes across the globe. Our motto is 'Children helping Children.' Children in Catholic primary and secondary schools pray for and donate to the Missionary Children society via Missio Scotland throughout the year. In turn, we provide materials such as posters, activity resources, rosary beads and candles. We also provide school assemblies on our charity.

A MILE FOR MISSION

The concept is simple, measure a mile in your school play area and co-ordinate your pupils to walk one mile.

Everyday across the world there are children who have to walk for miles to attend school. In Lusaka, Zambia there was no local school for the children, instead they walked for six miles to school and six miles home—a huge distance to cover to access education. Missio Scotland helped to raise money to build a school more locally for these children and we are going to send even more money this year to build more blocks to help with the demand.

WHY WALK A MILE?

Children sometimes don't understand how far many other children, have to walk for school.

Justina Njovu is 15 years old and like most girls of her age in Zambia, she's hungry for education. She knows that unless she completes Grade 12—the equivalent of Scottish Highers—she won't get even the most basic of jobs. Justina is lucky that her family have been able to scrape together enough money for transport and hostel costs at the nearest secondary school, many miles away from home. Most of Justina's fellow classmates weren't so lucky. Last year there were 40 youngsters at Justina's primary school, who passed to go to the secondary school, but not one of them were able to continue with their education. Not because they didn't share Justina's ambition to succeed, but because their families just couldn't afford to pay transport and hostel costs at the schools where the Zambian Government had allocated them places.

Walking a mile is achievable for most pupils and can help them appreciate and be thankful for the school and teachers that they have.

A measured mile also can help contribute towards goals in the Curriculum for Excellence, in particular:

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT

In addition to planned physical education sessions, physical activity and sport take place in the classroom, in the school, during travel, such as walking and cycling, in the outdoor environment and in the community. Learning in, through and about physical activity and sport is enhanced by participating in a wide range of purposeful and enjoyable physical pursuits at break times, lunchtimes, within and beyond the place of learning. The experiences and outcomes are intended to establish a pattern of daily physical activity which, research has shown, is most likely to lead to sustained physical activity in adult life. Experiences and outcomes should also open up opportunities for learners to participate and perform at their highest level in sport and, if interested, pursue careers in the health and leisure industries.

This activity would also satisfy criteria from This is our Faith handbook, in particular Section 8 across all ages, recognising Signs of God, and awareness of being part of the wider community of the Church.

EXTRA IDEAS

We would encourage pupils to pray for other children, like those boys and girls in Lusaka using the Missionary Children prayer:

May all the children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. Amen.

Another idea would be to hold a small collection before or after the Mile for Mission to donate to Missio Scotland.

You can have older children help to measure the mile too, to help with their understanding of distance measurements and using tools such as a trumeter.

If you think one mile is too far to walk, you could create a relay instead.

Each mission continent is represented by a colour, you could split your class or school by colour and ask each pupil to wear their 'missionary colour' to represent that continent. The colours are: **Green** (Africa), **Red** (Americas), **White** (Europe), **Blue** (Oceania), **Yellow** (Asia).