

Intercultural Guidelines:

Examples of Good Practice

Name of activity

The Meaning of Names and Naming Customs in Different Cultures

Year group	
TY	

Procedure

The teacher facilitates a whole-class discussion about names, starting with the CSO data on most popular baby names in Ireland in 2020 (link on next page).

Which names on the list are from celebrities, other cultures or are traditional? Is there a variation of a name in another language? How do parents choose baby names?

In small groups made up of students who do not know each other, students speak about where their name comes from and what it means. Are they called after a family member/a religious leader/someone famous? Are there alternate spellings, a short version or is their name a unisex one? Is it difficult to pronounce? Do people tend to get it wrong/mispronounce it? Do they like their name?

The teacher then puts students in groups and asks them to pick a culture from the website link below which discusses naming customs and lists names and meanings from 29 cultures. They research and feedback to the class four things of interest they learned about naming customs in that particular culture.

Students try to put themselves in a line in alphabetical order according to first name. Then, they try to say each person's name in order without making a mistake or they have to start again: "First, it's Artur, then it's Alexa, then Brian..." and so on.

Annual initiative/embedded in classroom practice

This is intended as an icebreaker, specifically a team-building activity for TY students who do not know each other.

Key skills

- 1. Working with others
- 2. Communicating

Looking at Our Schools: A Quality Framework for Post-Primary Schools

DOMAIN 2: LEARNER EXPERIENCES

An Intercultural Look at our Schools is an adaptation of the project "A roadmap for schools to support the language(s) of schooling" (2017-2019) of the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML). The ECML is a Council of Europe institution promoting excellence in language education in its member states, www.ecml.at/roadmapforschools













UNESCO sustainable development goals

Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

Value added (e.g., wellbeing, digital skills, presentation skills, building confidence or cross-curricular links)

Wellbeing

Getting to know others

Making new friends/relating to others

Finding common ground with others

Understanding their fellow classmates' names will help students to relate to one another and make more of an effort to get each other's names right. Focusing on similarities: what students have in common despite differing (cultural) backgrounds

Learning from each other

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https://www.behindthename.com/glossary/view/name

https://www.cso.ie/en/interactivezone/visualisationtools/babynamesofireland/

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