



Celebrating Children's

Right to be Heard

Classroom Activities to
Integrate Students'
Participatory Rights in
Schools

"From students' voices to school change"

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**Connect with
children's rights**



Introduction

On the occasion of the International Day of Children's Rights, QUEST is inviting schools to take one small but meaningful step: dedicate one day to create space for students' views to be heard, taken seriously and followed up.

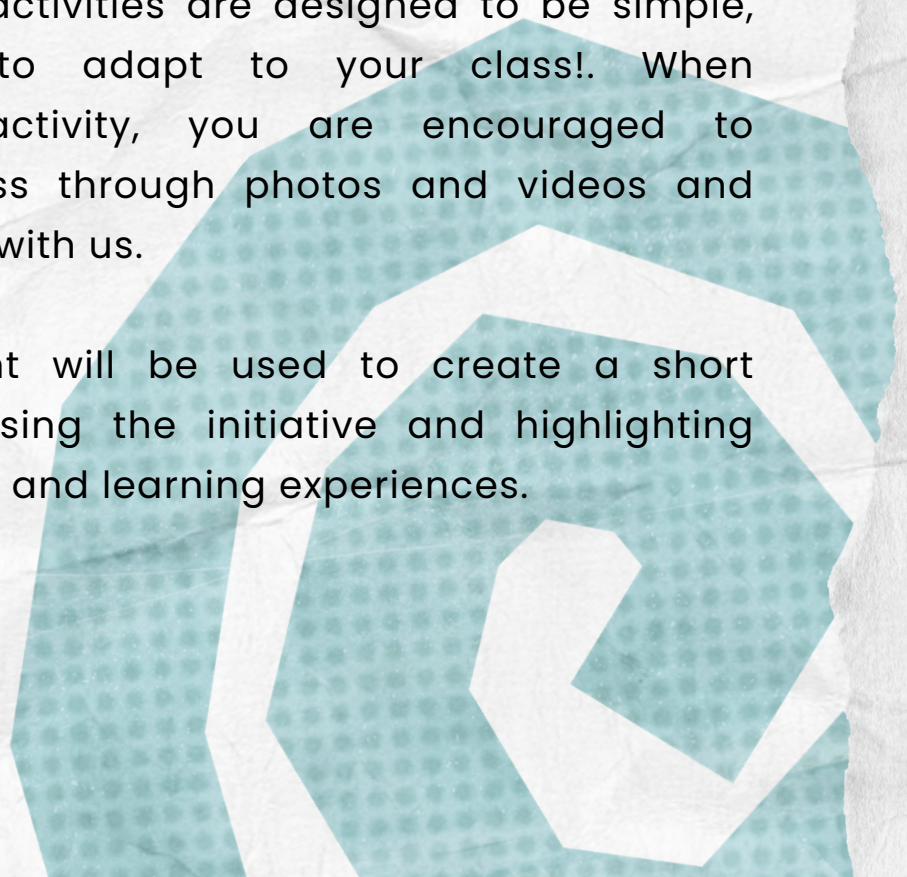
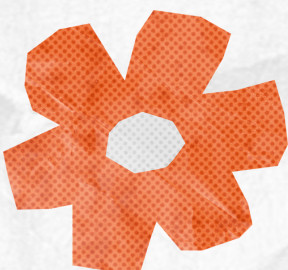
Through three simple classroom challenges designed to support teachers in this journey, we invite helping students speaking about how they learn, question who gets to decide, and imagine what could be different. Then take one idea a little further...

Small actions that can lead to meaningful change!

What does participation in this initiative entail?

You can choose one or more of the challenges included in this document. The activities are designed to be simple, flexible and easy to adapt to your class!. When implementing the activity, you are encouraged to document the process through photos and videos and share these materials with us.

The collected content will be used to create a short documentary showcasing the initiative and highlighting students' engagement and learning experiences.



Why participate?

Participation gives schools the opportunity to celebrate student voice, promote children's rights, and share inspiring classroom practices with a wider educational community during the QUEST Conference, while celebrating the International Day of Children's Rights.

Moreover, every participating school will receive:

- A Certificate of Participation,
- An exclusive 2-hour training session developed by QUEST on the design of Erasmus + educational projects.
- A special educational card game designed by us (will be shipped to your school)

Interested in getting involved?

If this sounds like an exciting opportunity for your school to celebrate children's rights together with other schools across Europe, simply complete this **short registration form** to express your interest, and we will get back to you shortly afterward



**Check out the
activities**





Activities

Challenge 1. "How and what I wish to learn"

Ages: 6 - 18

Start this activity with one simple question: ***"If you could tell the teachers in your school one thing that would help you learn better, what would it be?"***

Invite students to think about what helps them learn, participate and feel included, and what sometimes gets in the way.

They can respond in any way they prefer: writing, drawing, audio, collage, photos, symbols or an anonymous note.

Bring the responses together and discuss:

- What did we hear?
- What surprised us?
- Is there something we could change in our classroom or school to accommodate students' needs?

Then ask a second question: ***"If you could choose one thing you would like to learn about at school, what would it be?"***

(Students can write on paper or brainstorm together)

Look at the ideas together. Is there one that could find a place in a lesson, project or activity?

Before finishing: *inform students what is feasible and what not and how their ideas will be used!*

Challenge 2. "Who Gets to Decide?"

Age: 6-18

Start this activity by creating a line across the classroom (or on the board):

STUDENTS DECIDE ← **co decision** → **ADULTS DECIDE**

Read out different school decisions, for example: homework, mobile phone rules, assessment, school timetable, what happens during lessons, playground design, school events, school rules, budget, recruitment of teachers

For each decision, students position themselves on the line according to who currently has the most influence over these decisions.

Follow up and ask them for each example you gave : "

Where do you think students should be on this line? Then ask them to move again (or to mark in the board) their preference. Compare the two positions.

Choose **at least one** school decision where students think they could have more influence. What would moving one step towards shared decision-making actually look like?

Finally, ask: **"Do all students have the same opportunities to influence decisions?:**

Think together about whose voices might be less heard. For example younger students, quieter students, newcomers or students who communicate in different ways and what the school could do differently.

Challenge 3. "School Hack"

Age: 6-18

Introduce your students to a fictional scenario:

"Your school is not finished. You are one of its designers."

Invite them to look at their school through four questions:

A school where I can:

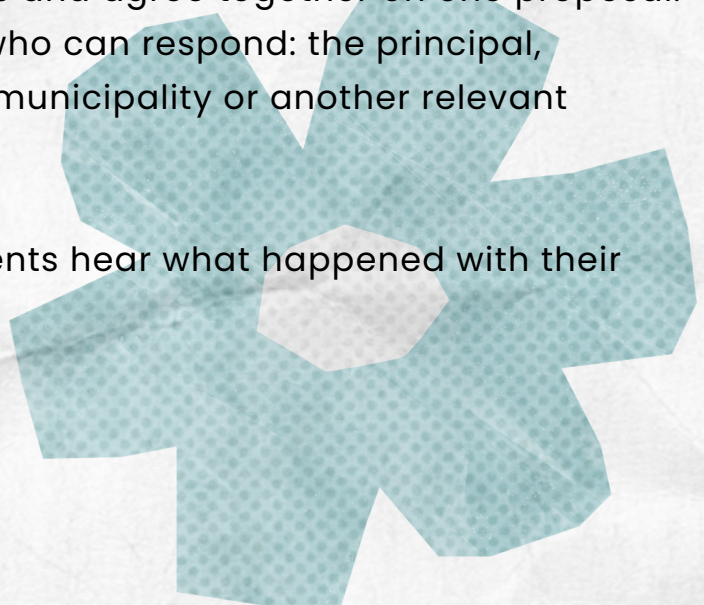
- learn
- belong,
- have a say
- be myself

Using drawings, maps, photos, Lego, collage or simply paper and pens, ask students to redesign one real part of their school. It could be: the playground, a classroom, lunchtime, the timetable, assemblies, a quiet space, group work, how students give feedback...

Then move from imagination to action: **"If students could change ONE thing about this school, what should it be??"**

Collect ideas, group similar ones and agree together on one proposal. Take the proposal to someone who can respond: the principal, teachers' team, school council, municipality or another relevant decision-maker.

As a final step: make sure students hear what happened with their ideas.



Shared Step: “Connect every activity to children’s rights”

After finishing the activity, explain to your students that by sharing their views on matters that affect their life, they actually practice their right to participation.

Introduce children to the concept of rights, and particularly their right to be heard and included in decisions that affect them (including education).

Finally, present to them the **4 concepts** that ensure this right is respected:

- 1 Children have the right to express their opinions and feelings
- 2 Adults should listen to these views with care
- 3 Children’s inputs should be taken into account
- 4 Adults should follow-up to inform children how their ideas were used or how