HOUSES AND HOMES

USEFUL WEBSITES
www.globaldimension.org.uk (Browse the Homes & Homelessness topic)

IDEAS

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY
Use stories to think about what homelessness means. Learn about what life is like for street children using Trócaire’s resources.
Discuss what it might be like to be homeless here. Invite a speaker in from one of our homeless charities to talk about what it is like for people who are homeless in NI.

IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY
Talk about what our homes mean to us. What makes a house a home?
Use images to compare and contrast houses in rural and urban settings, in different climates, in wealthy and poor situations and in different parts of the world.

GLOBALISATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE
Think about the reasons people move homes, whether out of choice for holidays /work or whether they are forced to move for other reasons like disasters, war or climate change.
What might it be like coming to a new home? What could you do to for someone coming in new to Northern Ireland to make them feel welcome? Ask the children to create a welcome pack for pupils coming new to your school.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Teach about different sustainable technologies, which can make homes more energy efficient and environmentally friendly. For example, solar panels, water catchment tanks, wind or water turbines, thermal heating and improved insulation techniques. Try constructing some of these on your school building or build models of what you would like to have.

PEACE AND CONFLICT
Think about how important shelter is for people such as refugees or victims of natural disasters who have been forced to leave their homes in a hurry. Look at images of refugee camps and think about the basics needed to provide adequate temporary shelter.
Try constructing temporary shelters out of some basic materials, such as tarpaulins, scrap wood, etc. Test different designs for security or to see how weatherproof/comfortable they are. Do they provide warmth, shade? Are they waterproof and windproof? Consider such questions with pupils.
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IDEAS

HUMAN RIGHTS

Learn about the Right to Adequate Housing. What does adequate housing actually mean? What are the minimum requirements? Does this make a house a home? Think also about the right to be part of a community and to be able to practice your culture and religion. See the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for more information on these rights (and the others to which we are all entitled).

POWER AND GOVERNANCE

The Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 (aka The Global Goals) include a target for sustainable cities and communities. Ask children to think about what they think would make their home place more sustainable and what would need to happen for this to become reality. You could ask them to draw pictures, prepare a plan/proposal for a sustainable city or build a model to show off their ideas.

Invite your local councillor or MLA in to ask them questions as to what they are doing to make your communities more sustainable.