



## Justice Walk – St Andrews Ferny Grove Primary Winner

### **What was your initiative or project about?**

**Briefly describe the initiative or project. How did your school become aware of the issue or opportunity? Which Wish for Education did it address?**

Each year our school hosts the "Justice Walk" which is a fundraising event where we donate money to two charities, one always being St Vincent de Paul. This all started when the Year Sixes were learning about the common good and social justice. They decided to do something about it, so they created The Justice Walk. The students chose to create this school-wide event as they learnt about how others were living with challenges and wanted to change that. This amazing event has been going on for around 12 years now, and this year it is our turn for the 13<sup>th</sup> year.

The Justice Walk is following the Wishes for Education in many ways, mainly, Choice and Voice (the Year Sixes organize and lead the entire Justice Walk), Mental Health (one of our charities for 2025 is Headspace which supports Youth Mental Health) and Love for Learning (as kids at St Andrew's love everything about the Justice Walk).



**How did you bring the initiative or project to life?  
Explain how students and staff worked together to plan and implement the project.  
What roles did students play?**

We were able to bring this initiative to life because every year it is a tradition at our school to promote causes through the Justice Walk. Along with St Vincent de Paul, this year's focus was voted by the students to be Mental Health, and we chose to support the mental health organization/charity Headspace. We will donate half of our fundraising from this event to Headspace. Meanwhile, one of our Student Council leaders reached out to the Headspace website and wrote an email addressing the fact that St Andrew's students want Headspace to be their chosen charity. This is because many children deal with anxiety, mood disorders, ADHD and other mental-health challenges every day and we want to help. The Community Engagement Coordinator from Headspace happily accepted our offer. They have agreed to host an information session with the school to explain what Headspace is and does for young people in the community. That is how we brought this project to life in St Andrew's.

***What made it successful? What positive changes or outcomes did you see for students? How did it improve their experience at school?***

The Justice Walk is coordinated and operated by the students, and there is very little interference from teachers. Students organize 95% of the elements needed to make the Justice Walk successful. We design the logo, organize the stalls and the fun activities, reach out to charities, and make the Launch script including the dance. We then need to promote it regularly to encourage donations, and we especially educate the children in the school about our chosen charities.

On the day we lead the school in a liturgy, dancing and walking around the school having fun. Staff and curriculum leaders do not have to do anything; just supervising what the students are doing and ensure that they are on track.

*It is the opinion of the Year 6 Student Council that motivated and innovative Year Six students are the key to a successful Justice Walk. Over the past twelve years, over \$160 000 has been raised for local charities, all because of the students' work. Every year we see the students being caring and passionate about the cause of the Justice Walk. The Year Sixes show dedication to their work by encouraging younger students to donate money towards the charities. This gives the Year 6 Leaders a sense of pride in their work as they have a Voice in the school and the community. Because it is a fun activity and involves music, dressing up, fun activities and dancing, it is memorable for everyone.*

School: St Andrew's Ferny Grove Best Contact: Janita Connolly. Project/Initiative Title: Justice Walk



Q4: What would you do differently next time?

If another school wanted to run a similar project, what advice would you give them? What lessons did you learn?

We would recommend these things for a successful Year 6 planning group:

- Good communication, taking turns, keep everyone focused on the goal
- Sharing out the responsibility and turning up to meetings
- Work through challenges being positive and constructive with criticism
- Being respectful so that everyone feels like they can contribute