



Drawing Hope Project Overview Ages 5-7



“Hello, my friend!”

Thank you for taking part in the Drawing Hope project. By teaching these sessions and inviting children and young people to contribute their artwork, you are joining a network of creativity that transcends boundaries and creates space for peace and reconciliation around the world.

The exhibition of children’s drawings began in 1996 with “Hello, My Friend!”, a self-portrait project led by peace initiative **Okedongmu**, which connected children from South and North Korea across the divide. It later evolved into **Drawing Hope**, gathering the dreams of children across Asia and around the world. The project launched its international exhibition in 2023 in Los Angeles and has since travelled to Belfast, Cape Town and the United Nations Headquarters in New York. In April 2026, an exhibition took place at Friends House in London, and **Quakers in Britain** were invited to launch a Britain-wide callout. Over the summer of 2026, the Peace Education team wrote and trialled these lessons so that schools and groups across Britain can now contribute artwork to this trans-local project*.

In this overview document, you will find an introduction to teaching the sessions, age-appropriate learning outcomes, artwork submission guidance, self-portrait requirements** and curriculum links for Scotland, Wales and England. Before teaching the sessions, **please register your school** via the **Drawing Hope Quaker webpage**. We also encourage you to read the **Drawing Guide**. This will also support you to follow the submission guidance requested by Okedongmu, our partner organisation.

We live in a time of increasing division and polarisation, including here in Britain. Children and young people can be drawn into narrow or oppositional ways of seeing others. Drawing Hope offers a simple but powerful alternative. By creating and sharing self-portraits and messages of greeting, children are encouraged to recognise their shared humanity with others – locally, nationally and globally.

We hope you enjoy taking part in Drawing Hope as much as we have enjoyed sharing it.

Izzy Cartwright, Ben Harper & Ben Mali

Peace Education Team - Quakers in Britain

*Trans-local is a term used by the Drawing Hope Network to describe connections between places. It supports us to think of the artwork as more than contributions from different nations – they are tools to think beyond borders, building bridges of connection and care.

Resource Pack Contents

1. Drawing Hope Project Overview - 5-7
2. Lesson Plans - 5-7
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4. Drawing Hope Presentation – 5-7
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Teaching the Sessions

In these sessions, children explore identity, kindness, friendship and self-expression through self-portraiture. They notice what makes them special, what they share with others, and how artwork can say hello to a friend they have not met yet.

Session 1 introduces Drawing Hope and self-representation. Session 2 builds simple portrait skills before pupils draft their self-portraits in pencil. Session 3 supports pupils to paint their portraits and share what they want others to know about them.

Session 1 is designed to be led in a circle. This is a powerful way to model equality, build relationships and support belonging in your learning environment. Where possible, clear the tables and set up the space before the session begins. For many more circle games and activities, see *'Learning for Peace'*, an invaluable resource created by Peacemakers (www.peacemakers.org.uk).

The teaching pack includes slides to support the lessons. These are optional; you may prefer to use more interactive ways to share information about the project or teach it in an informal context such as outside.

Before teaching these sessions, please read the **Drawing Guide** for information that will help make these lessons successful. This will also support you to follow the submission guidance requested by Okedongmu, our partner organisation.



Learning Outcomes

Session 1 Drawing Hope	• Name what makes each other special and what they share with others. • Explain that Drawing Hope uses pictures to say hello and build friendship. • Look carefully and draw a respectful picture of a partner.
Session 2 My Self-Portrait	• Identify simple facial features and notice details using a mirror. • Practise drawing features kindly and carefully. • Create the pencil outline of a self-portrait.
Session 3 "Hello, my friend"	• Share something they would like a new friend to know. • Complete a self-portrait with colour and a short friendly message. • Share artwork respectfully and reflect on welcome and kindness.

All lesson plans and resources are available to download for free from
www.quaker.org.uk/drawinghope

Exhibitions

Regional exhibitions will be taking place across Britain between October 2026 and March 2027. Please visit www.quaker.org.uk/drawinghope for the most up-to-date list of regional exhibitions planned and how to share artwork with coordinators.

If you would like to organise your own exhibition with other schools or youth groups, great! Please go ahead and make this happen and let us know via **drawinghope@quaker.org.uk** so we can share exhibition guidelines and resources with you.

There are great initiatives already set up across Britain, including:

- Citywide exhibitions in libraries, train stations, community centres, cafes or other public spaces.
- Community exchange exhibitions that bring together artwork from very different localities (e.g. life on a remote island alongside life in a big city).
- School linking exhibitions that specifically work with communities that have existing conflict or stereotypes.
- Exhibitions that connect to wider initiatives such as peace festivals or events.

Submitting Artwork

Once the self-portraits are complete, please compile the following to send to us:

- A selection of **original self-portraits** that meet the self-portrait requirements**
- **Reflection Sheets**
- **Submission Sheet**

Select any number of self-portraits to share with us, including a range of ages, styles and identities. We aren't looking for the most technically accurate artwork, but those that share something unique or speak to the wider messages of the project (friendship, representation and peacebuilding). We request that you share **original artwork** to ensure high quality scanning. You may wish to scan or photocopy your artwork to be kept in school or shared with children.

If your artwork is part of a local or regional exhibition, please send it to the relevant coordinator (see 'Exhibitions' above). If you are submitting artwork directly for the Spring 2027 London exhibition, please send it directly to –

Drawing Hope – QPSW
Friends House
173 Euston Road
London
NW1 2BJ

Please ensure all artwork has arrived by
31st March 2027.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact us at drawinghope@quaker.org.uk.

**Self-portrait Requirements

- **A4 paper** (ideally heavyweight)
- Either **portrait or landscape**
- **Colourful** artwork, using **any medium** (background colour encouraged)
- Front – Include a **greeting**, a short **introduction** (such as favourite things and dream) and a **message of hope**. See Session Plan 3 for more information.
- Back – **Name** and **age** of artist as well as any words written in additional languages **translated into English**.

Curriculum Links

England

- **Art and Design:** Use a range of materials creatively; draw and paint to share ideas, experiences and imagination; develop use of colour, line, shape, pattern, texture and space; describe similarities and differences in artwork and connect these to children's own portraits.
- **English:** Listening and responding in discussion; asking and answering questions; using spoken language to describe self, friends and artwork; composing simple messages for a real audience.
- **Relationships / PSHE / SMSC:** Naming similarities and differences; recognising feelings, kindness, welcome and belonging; developing respectful relationships and empathy through circle work, sharing and reflection.
- **Geography / RE / Citizenship links:** Beginning to understand that children live in different places and communities; noticing local and global connections; exploring care, friendship and peace across distance.

Wales

- **Expressive Arts:** Explore and respond to visual art; use drawing, colour and materials to communicate personal ideas; develop curiosity, imagination and creative confidence.
- **Health and Well-being:** Build self-awareness, confidence, empathy and belonging; practise kindness, listening, turn-taking and respect in a circle.
- **Humanities:** Explore people, places and communities; recognise that children's lives can be similar and different; begin to think about friendship, fairness and peace.
- **Languages, Literacy and Communication:** Listen and speak for different purposes; describe artwork and personal interests; create short messages for an audience.
- **Four Purposes:** Supports children as healthy, confident individuals; enterprising, creative contributors; ethical, informed citizens; and ambitious, capable learners.

Scotland

- **Expressive Arts:** Use visual elements such as line, colour, shape and pattern; create and share artwork that communicates personal ideas; respond positively to others' work.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Develop self-esteem, kindness, respect, cooperation and a sense of belonging; practise listening and sharing in group activities.
- **Literacy and English:** Listen and talk with others; describe personal experiences and artwork; create simple spoken or written messages for a real audience.
- **Social Studies / RME:** Explore people, places, friendship, fairness and care; begin to understand respect for different lives, identities and communities.
- **Four Capacities:** Develops successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors through creative and cooperative learning.