

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY PART 1



WHAT IS A COMMUNITY?

Before we look at some amazing ways people can help, let's talk about what a community is. Is it your friends and family? It certainly can include your friends and family. They can be very important members of your community. How about your neighbourhood? A neighbourhood can certainly be a community. So can your school. Dance academies, sports clubs, places of worship, classrooms, Girl Guides or Cubs: these are all types of communities, too. Your whole town is also community! So what on earth is a community?

Communities are groups of people who are together for some reason. Perhaps they share a common interest or have a common goal. Maybe they live close together and share parks and streets. In this case, your community can be your school, your neighbourhood, or your whole town.

Take some time to focus on one community you are a part of. Use a computer or note paper to record some ideas:

- Describe it! How did you become part of this community? How important is it to you?
- How many people are in this community? You can research, count, ask, or estimate (or a bit of everything).
- What sorts of spaces do members of this community share?
- How big are these spaces? You can choose 1 of them and think of how to measure it. You can estimate the distance around them, for example, using numbers of footsteps or arm lengths. You can also measure accurately using measuring tapes or measuring apps.
- Finally: how do you contribute to your community right now? You might not think you do, but you probably make it strong in some ways, even if they are small. Have a discussion about this!