

Golden Rule Day: primary school assembly

Golden Rule Day is celebrated on 5th April - an opportunity for the whole school to reflect on and celebrate the universal principle: *Treat others and the planet as you would wish to be treated*. It is a powerful tool for all our relationships – with ourselves, others, animals, and the planet.

In this 15-minute assembly, learners watch a performance by their peers, and can find out more about the Golden Rule, also having time to reflect on its meaning.

Learning Objectives

- Learners explore the Golden Rule, what it means and how to apply it
- Learners reflect on the importance of the Golden Rule in our global society

Before the assembly

- You will need four pairs of learners to perform – three pairs will act out role-plays and the other pair to act as assembly leaders. Those performing role plays will need to practice them before the assembly, but once they ‘reboot’ their role-plays to apply the Golden Rule, they could do this without having to learn the exact lines
- You could adapt or change the role-plays to fit your school context
- You will need:
 - Clipboards with scripts, and hats or matching outfits for the two Leaders – they could dress as scientists, journalists, entertainers or anything else they want
 - Two phones or tablets, one with headphones if possible (you could use cut out cardboard mock-ups of electronic devices)
- The reflection at the end of the assembly could be read by confident learners, or by teachers, and adapted to fit with your context
- If it fits with your school context, add in a message of faith during the reflection. The Golden Rule is a bedrock of all major world religions. Alternatively, hold a moment of silent reflection.

Leader 1: **Welcome to our assembly! We have prepared some role-plays, all about the Golden Rule.**

Leader 2: **That's because it's Golden Rule Day [on 5th April / today]. Let's see if our characters can work out what it is! Here's the first one.**

Role-play A

A1: [walks across the stage area and falls over and hurts themselves] **ow my leg!**

[A2 walks on to the stage wearing headphones and listening to music, humming]

A2: [sees A1 on the floor]. **Oh. Hello.** [Looks up] **Oh – there's my bus, I need to cross the road!** [runs off]

[A1 shakes their head and looks unhappy]

Leader 1: **Hang on a minute! What's the Golden Rule?**

A2: **Errrr.... Always look both ways before you cross the road?**

Leader 2: **It's good, but it's not the Golden Rule!**

[A1 and A2 leave the stage area, A1 could be hobbling and looking unhappy]

Role-play B

[B1 and B2 enter the stage area, each holding a bag of sweets]

B1: **would you like to try one of my sweets?**

B2: **sure, why not?** [B2 takes a sweet] **Yum! Thank you! Bye!** [walks away]

[B1 looks disappointed]

Leader 1: **Hang on a minute! What's the Golden Rule?**

B2: **Errrr.... Always brush your teeth after eating sweets?**

Leader 2: **It's good, but it's not the Golden Rule!**

[B1 and B2 leave the stage area, B1 could be still looking disappointed]

Role-play C

[C1 and C2 enter the stage area, C1 is playing on a tablet or phone]

C2: **Wow that looks amazing. Can I have a go?** [takes it and starts to walk away]

C1: [looking worried] **Errr... when can I have it back?**

C2: [shrugging] **I dunno – when I've finished with it?**

Leader 1: **Hang on a minute! What's the Golden Rule?**

C2: **Errrrr ... never tell anyone your password?**

Leader 2: **It's good, but it's not the Golden Rule!**

[C1 and C2 leave the stage area, C1 could be still looking worried]

Leader 1: **no one seems to know what the Golden Rule is!**

Leader 2: **they don't seem to be following it either!**

Leader 1: **the Golden Rule is simple – treat others and the planet how you would wish to be treated.**

Leader 2: **It's all about being kind to each other, helping people and treating everyone with respect.**

Leader 1: **like thinking about other people's feelings when something goes wrong or thinking about how we would feel if we were them. So – what's the Golden Rule?**

Everyone on stage: **treat others and the planet how you would wish to be treated!**

Leader 2: **OK! Let's freeze frame and see if can do any better next time! Everyone ready? Let's reboot!**

Everyone does a funny rewind of their actions gets to their freeze frames in different parts of the stage:

- A1 is on the floor holding their leg and looking unhappy, while A2 has their phone and headphones
- B1 and B2 are holding bags of sweets, B2 is taking one of B1's sweets
- C2 is reaching out to take C1's tablet



Leader 1: [walks over to A1 and A2] **What could you do differently, thinking about the Golden Rule?**

A2: [Thinks] **Well ... I could help this person by asking if they need help getting up, or checking if they're OK. If I'd fallen over I'd want someone to help me.**

Leader 2: **Great! Give it a try!**

A2: [To A1] **Are you OK? Do you need a hand?**

A1: **Yes please, thanks so much.**

[A2 helps A1 up and they leave the stage area together smiling, A1 leaning on A2]

Leader 1: [walks over to B1 and B2] **What could you do differently, thinking about the Golden Rule?**

B2: [Thinks] **Well ... it would be kind to offer one of my sweets in return. That would be fair.**

Leader 2: **Great! Give it a try!**

B2: [To B1] **Would you like a sweet?**

A1: **Yes please, thanks so much. Yum!**

[B1 and B2 leave the stage area together, smiling]

Leader 1: [walks over to C1 and C2] **What could you do differently, thinking about the Golden Rule?**

B2: [Thinks] **Well ... it would be respectful to ask politely if I can borrow it. If it was mine, I'd want to be able to decide whether that was OK or not.**

Leader 2: **Great! Give it a try!**

C2: [To C1] **Please can I have a go on that for a few minutes?**

C1: **Sure.**

C2: **Thank you!**

[C1 and C2 leave the stage area together, smiling]

Leader 1: **Did you see how much happier everyone was when they followed the Golden Rule?**

Leader 2: **Being helpful, kind and respectful made so much difference.**

Leader 1: **It's a simple thing to remember and we can do it every day.**

Leader 2: **The Golden Rule has been around for thousands of years. It's important in many global religions.**

Reflection [this could be led by teachers or learners]

Leader 1: **Let's reflect on the Golden Rule. Let's think about a time when we feel like someone else treated us the way we would wish to be treated. How did it make us feel?**

Leader 2: **Let's think about something we can do every day to follow the Golden Rule. It could be at home, school, or somewhere else. It could be including someone in a game, sharing a joke or a treat with someone, or standing up for a friend when they are sad.**

Leader 1: **Let's think about how the Golden Rule could help make the world a better place. If we treat everyone around us the way we would wish to be treated, it means everyone around us deserves all the rights we have, like being able to go to school, play with friends or have clean water and good food to eat.**

Leader 2: **Following the Golden Rule could really help the planet too. Let's think about how we can treat the animals and the environment the way we would wish to be treated. We could remember the Golden Rule before we drop litter or leave the tap running. We could think about how to treat the planet with respect.**

Leader 1: **Thank you for listening to our assembly.**

Leader 2: **Don't forget it's Golden Rule Day [on 5th April / today]. See what else you can do to follow the Golden Rule!**

