



Harmony Day Poster Competition: Teacher's Lesson Guide

Years 5 & 6

2026 Theme: *Harmony – Stronger Together*



Dear Teacher,

Thank you for exploring the deeper concepts of social cohesion and community with your students. This year's theme, "**Harmony – Stronger Together**," offers a powerful opportunity for your students to critically examine how collaboration, mutual respect, and collective action create a resilient society.

At this age, students can move beyond simple representations to create powerful visual metaphors. A poster becomes a medium for social commentary and persuasion, allowing them to communicate a sophisticated message with purpose and impact.

This guide provides a complete, **60-minute lesson plan** designed for Years 5 & 6. It is aligned with the Australian Curriculum and will empower your students to deconstruct the theme and transform their insights into a compelling and symbolic piece of art.

We look forward to seeing the thoughtful and inspiring messages your students will create.

1. Connecting to the Australian Curriculum

This theme-based lesson supports key learning outcomes for Years 5 & 6, focusing on Visual Arts, HASS, and developing sophisticated personal and social capabilities.

Learning Area	Curriculum Code	Content Descriptor (in plain English)
The Arts (Visual Arts)	AC9AVA6D01	Students will develop and refine representations of concepts or subjects to communicate complex ideas and meaning in their artworks.
HASS (Civics & Citizenship)	AC9HS6K06	Students will examine how and why groups, including religious and cultural groups, cooperate and participate in civic life .
General Capabilities	<i>Critical & Creative Thinking</i>	Students will analyse, generate, and evaluate ideas by considering how visual metaphors and effective typography can be combined to persuade a target audience.
General Capabilities	<i>Personal & Social Capability</i>	Students will develop social awareness and management skills by negotiating ideas and appreciating diverse perspectives on what makes a community strong.

2. The 60-Minute "Stronger Together" Poster Lesson Plan

Lesson Objective: Students will be able to design a persuasive poster that uses a central visual metaphor, a deliberate colour palette, and a integrated theme words to communicate a nuanced message about why communities are "stronger together."

Materials Needed:

- One unique, blank, interlocking jigsaw puzzle piece for each student
- A large backing sheet of paper (for the final puzzle)
- Whiteboard or smartboard and markers
- The provided "**My Harmony Poster Design Brief**" Worksheet for each student
- Pencils and colouring materials (markers, pencils, etc.)

Step 1: The Spark – The Community Tapestry (15 mins)

- Give each student an identical, standard-sized piece of paper (e.g., a square or A5 rectangle) and colouring materials.
- Instruct them: "On this 'patch,' draw a symbol or picture that represents a unique part of you—a skill you have, a passion like sports or music, your cultural background, or a personal quality you're proud of."
- After a few minutes, have students bring their completed patches to a designated wall or large backing sheet. One by one, have them tape their patch to the wall, right next to the others, to form a large, colourful "tapestry" or "quilt."
- Lead a discussion: "Look at your individual patch. It's a wonderful picture on its own. Now, look at our finished tapestry. What does it represent now that they are all connected? How is seeing all our unique parts together more powerful than just seeing one?"
- Introduce the theme: "This tapestry is a metaphor for our community. Each unique patch is essential, and when we join them together, we create something much bigger, more vibrant, and more resilient. We are **stronger together**."
- On the whiteboard, brainstorm more abstract concepts for "**Stronger Together Actions**": (e.g., Advocating for others, Combining skills to solve a problem, Celebrating cultural diversity, Volunteering for a cause).

Step 2: Designing for Impact (15 mins)

Explain that an effective poster is strategically designed to persuade an audience. Discuss three key elements:

1. **A Powerful Visual Metaphor:** The main symbol that represents the core idea. The 'Community Tapestry' we just created is a perfect visual metaphor—each unique patch represented a person, and together they formed a single, strong, and beautiful image. For your poster, you could absolutely use the idea of a woven tapestry where each thread is a person. Or, what other powerful symbols could show the same idea? Think about a strong bridge being built from many different types of stone, or complex interlocking gears all working together in a machine.

2. **Target Audience and Tone:** "Who is your poster for? Other students? Adults? What is the **tone** you want to set—is it hopeful, urgent, thoughtful, or celebratory? How will your colours and images create that feeling?"
 3. **Theme & Typography:** The words 'Harmony – Stronger Together' are your core message. How will you present them? The typography (the style of the letters) is a crucial design choice. Should the words be bold and strong? Soft and flowing? Playful? The style of the text must match the mood of your poster.
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Step 3: Let's Create! (20 mins)

- Hand out the "**My Harmony Poster Design Brief**" Worksheet.
 - Explain that this is their "designer's brief," a professional tool to plan their poster's message, audience, and visual strategy before creating the final artwork.
 - Guide them through each section of the brief, encouraging them to think critically about their choices.
 - **Important Teacher Note:** Remind students that this planning stage is crucial for creating a thoughtful and impactful poster. Their final competition entry will be created afterwards on a fresh, blank sheet of A4 or A3 paper.
 - Circulate the room, helping students articulate their metaphors and connect them logically to their design choices for the theme words and colours.
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Step 4: The Poster Pitch (5 mins)

- Ask a few volunteers to do a 60-second "pitch" of their design brief to the class.
 - They should explain their target audience, their visual metaphor and why they chose it, how their typography choice for the theme words enhances the poster's tone, and how their colour palette supports the overall message. This builds public speaking, critical thinking, and justification skills.
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3. Teacher's Tip Sheet: 5 Tips for an Impactful Poster

Help your students become effective visual communicators with these key principles.

- **Communicate One Clear Idea:** A powerful poster doesn't try to say everything. What is the single, focused message you want your audience to take away?
- **Use a Strong Visual Metaphor:** Go beyond the literal. Choose a central image that symbolically represents "Stronger Together" in a clever or thought-provoking way.
- **Consider Composition and Hierarchy:** Arrange the elements on your page to guide the viewer's eye. Use size, colour, and placement to create a clear focal point and leave some "white space" so your design can breathe.
- **Harness Colour Symbolism:** Colours evoke emotions and ideas. Use your colour palette intentionally to set the tone (e.g., earthy tones for community, vibrant colours for celebration, cool colours for unity and peace).

- **Typography is Key:** The words 'Harmony – Stronger Together' are a design element, not just a label. Ensure the style of your lettering matches the mood of your poster. Integrate the words into your composition so they feel like part of the artwork.
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4. From Classroom Creation to Competition Submission

The most important outcome of this lesson is the rich conversation and the pride students feel in creating their artwork. Here is our recommended process for celebrating their work and participating in the national competition.

Step 1: Create a School "Stronger Together" Gallery

We strongly encourage you to celebrate the work of **every student**. Creating a "**Stronger Together Wall**" in your classroom, library, or school hall is a fantastic way to:

- Give every child the recognition they deserve.
- Showcase your school's commitment to the values of Harmony Day.
- Visually reinforce the powerful message that your school community is stronger together.

Step 2: Select Your School's Finalists

The Moving Forward Together competition receives thousands of entries from across the country. To ensure every poster gets the attention it deserves, we ask schools to participate in the first round of judging.

Please select the posters that you feel best represent your school's creativity and understanding of the theme. As a guideline, we recommend submitting your top 3 entries per Year (e.g., 3 from Year 1, 3 from Year 2, etc.).

This makes being selected for submission a special achievement for the students.

Step 3: Submit Your Finalists Online

Once you have selected your school's finalists, please proceed to the submission guide below.

5. Competition Submission Guide

2026 Competition Theme: Harmony – Stronger Together

Key Rules:

- Artwork must be the student's own original work and connect to the theme.
- Posters should be A4 or A3 in size.
- Any art materials can be used (crayons, paint, markers, collage).

How to Submit:

1. Take a clear, bright photograph or scan of the completed poster.
2. Visit our website at www.movingforwardtogether.org.au/harmony-day-competitions
3. Fill out the online entry form with the student's details and upload the image file.

Submission Deadline: 15 April 2026

Thank you for helping us show that we are all stronger together.

6. Engaging Parents & Carers: Bring Harmony Home!

Connecting with families is a powerful way to extend the Harmony Day message beyond the classroom. To help you do this, we have created a simple, one-page handout for you to send home with your students.

This guide, titled "**Bring Harmony Home**," briefly explains the "**Stronger Together**" theme and gives parents and carers simple ideas on how to support their child's creative process. It also clarifies that the school will be managing the final competition submissions.

This resource is designed to be a simple, print-and-go A4 handout.
(Annexed to this document)



Harmony Day Poster Competition: Parent Guide: "Bring Harmony Home!"

2026 Theme: *Harmony – Stronger Together*
Years 5 & 6



Hello Parents and Carers!

Today in class, your child explored this year's Harmony Day Competitions theme:

"Harmony – Stronger Together."

They participated in a creative lesson about how every individual brings something unique to a community, and how by connecting our diverse skills and backgrounds, we create a stronger, more vibrant society—just like individuals forming a community tapestry!

They have used a "Poster Design Brief" to plan their ideas. Now, they have the opportunity to create a final poster for the **Moving Forward Together Harmony Day Competition!**

How You Can Support Your Child's Creativity

The goal is to encourage a deeper conversation about community and collaboration.:

- **Ask About Their Metaphor:** Ask your child to explain their core idea: "What visual metaphor did you choose to represent 'stronger together,' and why is that symbol meaningful to you?"
 - **Discuss Community Contribution:** Talk about real-world examples of the theme. "What groups do we see in our community that work together to make things better? (e.g., volunteer organisations, community gardens, sports clubs)."
 - **Provide the Canvas:** Your child will need a blank A4 or A3 piece of paper and their favourite art supplies to create their final poster.
 - **Encourage, Don't Direct:** Let their unique perspective shine! The most powerful posters are the ones that reflect the artist's genuine ideas and feelings.
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About the Competition

The Moving Forward Together competition is a wonderful way to celebrate the creativity of students across Australia.

Your child's teacher will have all the information about the school's process for selecting and submitting posters to the official competition.

Thank you for helping us build a stronger community, together.

Visit Website for Details: www.movingforwardtogether.org.au/harmony-day-competitions

The Moving Forward Together Team



My Harmony Poster Planner

2026 Theme: *Stronger Together*



Use this planner to design your powerful poster message! Your final poster will be on a fresh, blank piece of paper.

1. My Theme & Typography

- The words "Harmony – Stronger Together" are your core message. How will you make them look powerful?

Describe the style of your text (e.g., bold, handwritten, elegant, blocky):

- This style matches my poster's mood because:

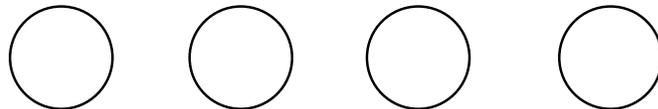
2. My Visual Metaphor - Symbol / Image

This is the main symbol that will grab everyone's attention.

My symbol helps show my message because:

3. My Colour Palette & Mood

Colours create feelings. Colour in the circles with the 3-4 main colours you will use for your poster.



I chose these colours because they will make my poster feel:

(e.g., happy, calm, strong, peaceful, exciting)

My Name: _____