



Harmony Day Poster Competition: Teacher's Lesson Guide

Foundation to Year 2

**See note below re Foundation Year*

2026 Theme: Harmony – Stronger Together



Dear Teacher,

Thank you for inspiring your students to explore the power of teamwork and community. This year's theme, "**Harmony – Stronger Together,**" is a wonderful opportunity for our youngest learners to understand that we can achieve amazing things when we support and include one another.

A poster is a perfect way for children to celebrate the actions—like helping, sharing, and playing together—that build strong friendships and happy classrooms.

This guide provides a complete, **45-minute lesson plan** designed specifically for students in Years F-2. It aligns with the Australian Curriculum and uses the "Stronger Together" theme to spark creativity and collaboration. Our goal is to make it easy for you to participate and to empower your students to create posters with a message of unity and belonging.

We can't wait to see the wonderful ways your students show how we are stronger together!

1. Connecting to the Australian Curriculum

This theme-based lesson supports key learning outcomes for Years F-2, blending Visual Arts with Personal and Social Capability.

Learning Area	Curriculum Code	Content Descriptor (in plain English)
The Arts (Visual Arts)	ACAVAM108	Students will create and display artworks that communicate their ideas about teamwork and community.
Health & Physical Education	ACPPS020	Students will identify how valuing diversity and including others creates a positive community.
General Capabilities	<i>Critical & Creative Thinking</i>	Students will generate ideas by brainstorming ways people can be "stronger together" and how to show this visually.
General Capabilities	<i>Personal & Social Capability</i>	Students will develop social awareness and skills by exploring concepts of cooperation and friendship.

*Foundation Year in Australia is equivalent to the first year of schooling.

Kindy – NSW ACT; Prep – QLD, VIC, TAS; Reception – SA; Pre-Primary – WA ; Transition – NT

2. The 45-Minute "Stronger Together" Poster Lesson Plan

Lesson Objective: Students will be able to create a poster that visually represents an idea about teamwork or friendship, using colours and simple symbols.

Materials Needed:

- A bundle of pencils or paddle-pop sticks
- Whiteboard or large sheet of paper
- Markers
- The provided "**My Harmony Poster Planning Sheet**" for each student
- Pencils, crayons, or coloured markers

Step 1: The Spark – What Makes Us Strong? (10 mins)

- Gather students for a hands-on demonstration. Hold up a single pencil or stick. Ask, "Is this easy to break?" (Bend it to show it is).
- Next, hold up a tight bundle of 10-15 pencils. Ask, "Is this easy to break?" (Try to bend it to show it's strong). Ask, "**Why is this so much stronger?**" Guide them to the answer: "**Because they are all together!**"
- Introduce the theme: "Just like these pencils, people are **stronger together!**"
- Brainstorm on the whiteboard: "What are some things we do together in our class that make us a strong and happy team?" (e.g., Playing together, Helping a friend, Building with blocks, Sharing toys, Tidying up).

Step 2: From Words to Pictures (10 mins)

- Point to the ideas on the board. Say, "How can we *draw* these 'stronger together' ideas to make a poster?"
 - **Discuss Symbols:** "What simple pictures can show people working as a team?" (e.g., *Hands holding* 🤝, *Puzzle pieces fitting together* 🧩, *A bridge connecting two sides*, *A group of people smiling* 😊, *A rainbow* 🌈). Sketch these simple symbols on the board.
 - **Discuss Colours:** "What colours make us feel happy and united? What about using lots of different colours to show how everyone is important to the team?"
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Step 3: Let's Create! (20 mins)

- Hand out the "**My Harmony Poster Planning Sheet**" Worksheet. (annexed to this document)
- **Teacher Tip for F-1:** For students who are not yet writing sentences, this is a great opportunity for them to tell you their idea verbally. You can scribe their idea for them on the line, or simply let the drawing speak for itself.
- Explain that this is their "**idea planning sheet**" where they can practice their design.
- Instruct students: "Your job is to choose your favourite 'stronger together' idea and plan it on this sheet. Think of it as your secret team plan!"
- **Important Teacher Note:** Remind students that this worksheet is for planning. Their final competition entry will be created afterwards on a fresh, blank sheet of A4 or A3 paper. This allows them to be creative and free with their ideas first.
- Circulate, praising their ideas about teamwork and helping them express their concepts visually on the planning sheet.

Step 4: Our "Stronger Together" Gallery (5 mins)

- Ask a few students to hold up their plans, point to their main symbol, and share how it shows people being stronger together. (e.g., "My symbol is two hands holding because we are stronger together when we help each other.")
- Celebrate all contributions: "Look at all these amazing ways we can work as a team! Our class is definitely stronger together."
- Display the posters in the classroom to reinforce the theme.

3. Teacher's Tip Sheet: A "Stronger Together" Poster

Remind your students of these simple goals for their posters.

- **Show Teamwork:** Your poster should show an idea about people helping, sharing, or working together.
 - **Use Clear Symbols:** Use simple pictures that everyone can understand, like holding hands, a bridge, or a team of friends.
 - **Use Happy Colours:** Fill your poster with bright, friendly colours that show the happy feeling of being part of a team.
 - **Fill the Page!** Be bold and make your wonderful idea big and easy for everyone to see.
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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 K, 3 from Year 1, 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

2025 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*
Foundation – Year 2



Hello Parents and Carers!

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

"Harmony – Stronger Together."

They participated in a fun, hands-on lesson about how teamwork and including others makes our community stronger and happier—just like a bundle of sticks is stronger than one on its own!

You may have seen their "Harmony Poster Planning Sheet," which they used to brainstorm their amazing 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 of this activity is to have a positive conversation about teamwork. Here are a few easy ways you can get involved:

- **Ask to See Their Ideas:** Ask your child to tell you about their "stronger together" idea for their poster and why they chose it.
- **Be a "Teamwork Spotter":** Talk about all the ways you see people being stronger together during the day—in a sports team, in your family working together to cook dinner, or characters in a book helping each other.
- **Provide the Canvas:** Your child will need a blank A4 or A3 piece of paper and their favourite art supplies (crayons, markers, paints) to create their final poster.
- **Encourage, Don't Direct:** Let their unique ideas shine! The most wonderful posters are the ones that come straight from the heart.

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 Planning Sheet

2026 Theme: *Harmony – Stronger Together*



My Practice Sketch Box - Use this sheet to plan your amazing ideas! Your final poster will be on a fresh, blank piece of paper.

My Name: _____

My 'Stronger Together' idea is: _____