

Lesson 2

The Census, Human Dignity and Diversity



How this links to the curriculum: Strand 1 – Rights and Responsibilities

Wellbeing indicators: Connected/Respected

Learning Outcomes: Students should be able to:

- Identify examples of social, cultural, language, economic, civic, religious, environmental and political rights (1.8)
- Reflect on their ongoing learning and what it means for them (1.11)

Materials

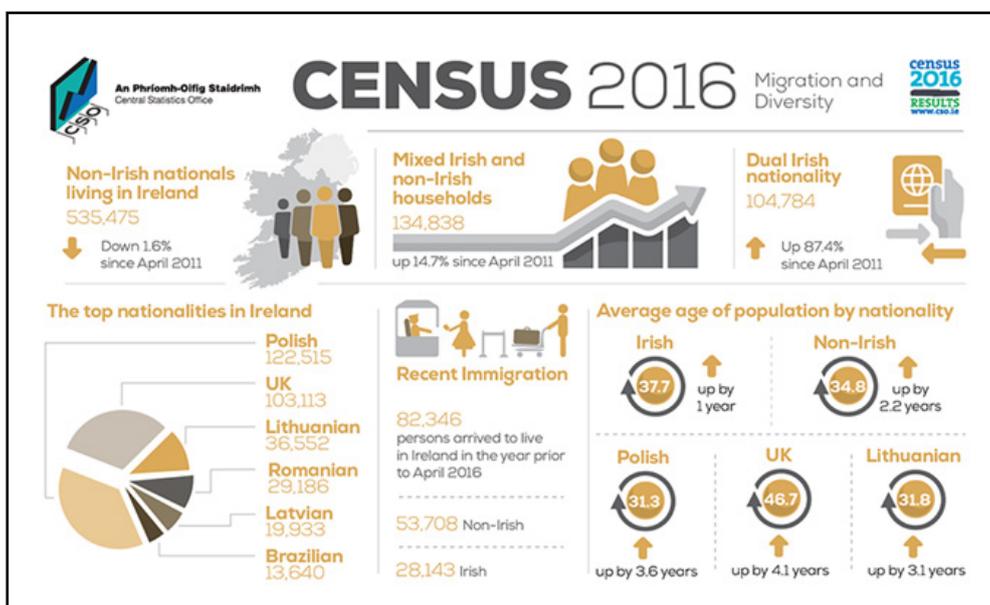
- Whiteboard marker/whiteboard
- Teacher laptop/overhead projector
- Student pens/copies/reflection notebooks
- Blank A3 sheets to make posters
- iPads/Chrome tablets for each student

Activity 1: Learning about Discrimination (20mins)

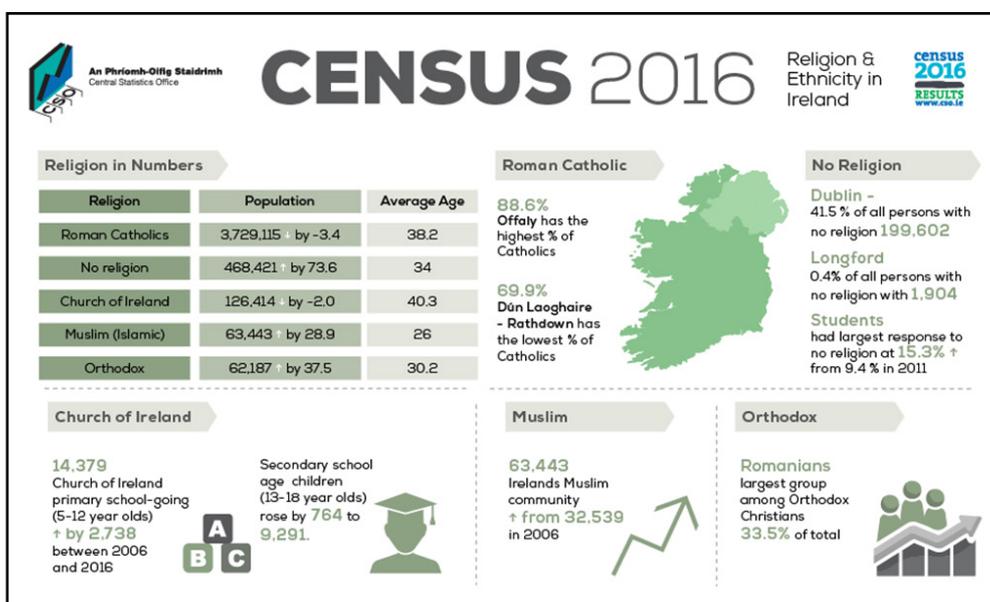
Tell the students that in CSPE they learn about diversity and the importance of respecting differences in order to uphold our human dignity. Our human dignity can suffer from discrimination. Discrimination happens when individuals or groups are treated less favourably because of factors such as age/gender/religion/disability/family status/marital status/sexual orientation/membership of the Traveller Community/race. In Ireland, discrimination based on any of those grounds is unlawful.

Ask the students to examine the following infographics on changing diversity patterns in our society.

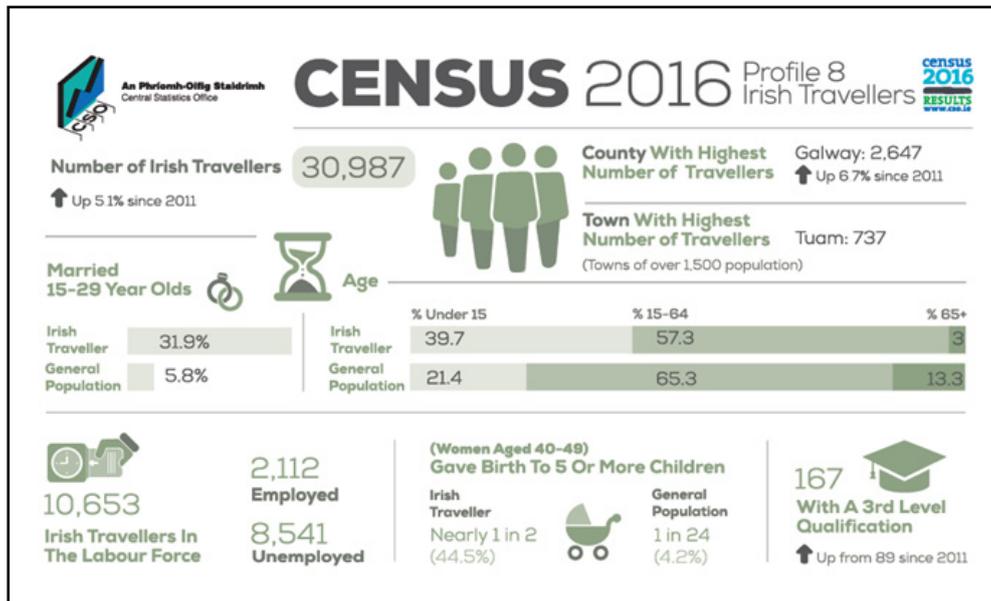
Census 2016 Profile 7: Migration & Diversity



Census 2016 Profile 8: Irish Travellers, Ethnicity & Religion



Activity 1: Learning about Discrimination (20mins)



Ask them to reflect on why the changing data is important in helping the government make changes in our society. Use prompt questions such as:

- To have government information available in other languages
- To build non-denominational schools
- To create new subjects in the Leaving Certificate
- To write policies that protect individuals and groups against discrimination
- To promote equality in our society

Explain that the census also gathers information on other diverse patterns in Ireland such as: religion dual Irish nationalities, economic activities, disability and homelessness.

The Big Question:

Can the students think of any other reason why collecting data on diversity in our society is important?

Put student answers on the whiteboard

Activity 2: Prejudice and Stereotyping (20 mins)

Explain to the students that stereotyping and prejudice are two forms of discrimination. Prejudice occurs when we prejudge individuals or groups usually in a negative way based on factors such as how they speak, look, the clothes they wear or their age. This deprives people of their right to be treated equally.

Stereotyping happens when we believe, treat or say that all members of a particular group are all the same, without any evidence. Instead we should get to know members from different groups individually and recognise that each person is different and that way we can all help to promote equality in our society.

The Big Question:

Put the students in pairs and ask them if they can think of some groups in our society who experience prejudice or stereotyping?

- Elicit student answers and put them on the whiteboard.
- Ask the students to design a poster each to promote a diversity day in their school/ community.
- They can use the data from the census to help, including the above infographics and reports. Students could also examine the report on non-Irish nationals available [here](#).

