

# A Class Family

## Values Targeted

Care and Compassion

Fair Go

Integrity

Respect

Responsibility

Understanding, Tolerance  
and Inclusion

## Outcomes

- Respects the rights of others in the class
- Identifies needs, roles and responsibilities of self and others
- Participates in the formation of classroom rules and follows them
- Understands importance of individual contribution to overall classroom happiness, health and safety
- Demonstrates a knowledge of musical concepts, through activities which involve performing (singing, playing, moving), listening and organising sound



### Suggestions for Literacy

1. Display values words from song on flashcards and discuss their meanings.
2. Display a laminated flashcard heading 'We're A Class Family!', above a class photo. Around photo, place flashcards words: Harmony - Respect - Responsibility - Participation - Unity - Grace - Understanding - Health - Safety - Friendliness - Co-operation - Communication
3. Use these values words in sentences, e.g. We respect each other; We live in harmony. Explain more difficult words in a sentence, e.g. Participation means joining in.



### Exploring Musical Concepts

**Structure:** Refer to lyric sheet or music score for order of sections of song. Students form a circle and join hands. While singing verses, walk in a clockwise direction for first two lines and anticlockwise for last two lines. During chorus, hold hands and walk towards centre of circle, swinging joined hands up in the air. Step back, swinging hands backwards to rhythm of music.

**Pitch:** Listen for harmony in chorus, on words 'a class family' and 'harmony'. Discuss what harmony means (pitches/notes sounded together).

Listen for and sing two-part round at end of Choruses 3, 4 and 5. Divide class into two groups. One group sings main melody of the chorus while other group sings the phrase, 'We're very clever at living together in harmony'. Sung correctly, this group will end up singing the word 'harmony' as an actual harmony!

**Duration:** During verses, students clap hands or play percussion instruments (e.g. tambourines or egg shakers) on the first beat (accented beat) of each bar, e.g. on the words/syllables 'help to make our classroom run with ease respecting rights and responsibilities'. In the chorus, clap or play percussion on every beat of each bar, e.g. 'we're a family with class ...'

**Tone Colour:** Listen for the electric guitar riff at the beginning of the song. Notice how guitar descends in melodic steps at end of each verse as it leads into each chorus.



### Activities

1. Class Discussion. Lead with questions such as:
  - a. What are some of the qualities of a family?
  - b. How is a class like a family?
  - c. Do families have rules? Why?
2. Discuss class rules.



### Assembly or Performance Piece

- a. Students walk onto stage in single file holding up 'values' flashcards
- b. Forming a semi-circle and placing flashcards at their sides, students sing the song.
- c. Students hold up relevant flashcards as corresponding values are sung.
- d. At the end, the students call out: 'We've got class!'

# A Class Family

## **Chorus**

*We're a family with class,  
A class family!  
If one day you visit us,  
Then you will clearly see,  
We're very clever at living together,  
We're growing and learning in harmony.*

## **Verse 1**

We help to make our classroom run with ease,  
Respecting rights and responsibilities;  
Participating in all activities,  
We're working together in unity.

## **Chorus**

## **Verse 2**

We know we won't be perfect, there is no doubt.  
Problems arise, we try to sort them out;  
Behaving graciously, we never shout.  
Understanding is what we're all about.

## **Chorus**

## **Verse 3**

Healthy and safe is what we try to be.  
We listen well and line up quietly;  
Never push or shove, we're so friendly.  
We're living together so peacefully.

## **Chorus**

## **Verse 4**

The rules of our class are there for all to see,  
Helping us to behave respectfully;  
Trying to communicate openly,  
Our classroom is a happy place to be.

## **Chorus**

*We're a family with class,  
A class family!  
If one day you visit us,  
Then you will clearly see.  
We're very clever at living together,  
We're growing and learning in harmony.  
We're very clever at living together,  
We're growing and learning in harmony.*

# A Class Family

Words by Nuala O'Hanlon  
Music by Kathryn Radloff

With energy ♩ = 116

F C F C F C Fmaj7 G

5 C C F G

We're a fam - i - ly with class, a class fam - i - ly! If one

8 C F G F C

day you vis - it us then you will clear - ly see; we're ver - y clev - er at

11 F C F C F G

*last time to CODA*

liv - ing to - geth - er, we're grow - ing and learn - ing in har - mo -

14 C G

ny.

1. We help to make our class - room run
2. We know we won't be per - fect, there is
3. Health - y and safe is what we
4. The rules of our class are there

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16 C G

with ease, re - spect - ing rights and re - spon -  
 no doubt. Prob - lems a - rise, we try  
 try to be. We list - en well and line  
 for all to see. help - ing us to be - have

18 C G

si - bil - i - ties; par - tic - i - pat - ing in all  
 to sort them out; be - hav - ing gra - cious - ly, we  
 up qui - et - ly; nev - er push or shove, we're so  
 re - spect - ful - ly; try - ing to com - mun - i - cate o -

20 C D

ac - ti - vi - ties, we're work - ing to - geth - er in u -  
 nev - er shout. Un - der stand - ing is what we're all  
 friend - ly. We're liv - ing to - geth - er so peace -  
 pen - ly. Our class - room is a hap - py place

22 G

ni - ty. We're a  
 a - bout.  
 ful - ly.  
 to be.

♩ CODA

24 C F C

y. We're ver - y clev - er at

26 F C F C F G C

work - ing to - geth - er, we're grow - ing and learn - ing in har - mo - ny.