

Good practices and existing frameworks– Dreams, passions and reality for fraternity

Keyword: Compassion

The good that already exists

Practices (concrete actions currently in place linked to the keyword)

“The schools of peace, supporting scholastic and emotional education, places of inclusion and dialogue for learning the culture of living together.”

Founded in the heart of the Community of St. Egidio in 1968, the Schools of Peace today form an educational network spread across more than 70 countries, involving each year around 70,000 girls and boys from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. These free centers, active especially in urban and existential peripheries, offer a welcoming and protected space where children can grow, learn, and feel recognized.

The aim is to accompany the youngest—particularly those living in conditions of material poverty or social fragility—through an educational path that integrates academic support with experiences of socialization, openness to others, and respect for the environment. What makes this model unique is the presence of young volunteers, often only slightly older than the children themselves, who, after appropriate training, dedicate themselves consistently and freely to educational and relational accompaniment.

Activities take place regularly outside school hours and range from study support to discovering the world, from nurturing relationships to promoting coexistence among cultures. Each intervention is designed to offer not only educational tools but above all an emotional atmosphere built on trust, closeness, and attentive care.

Within these educational spaces, fundamental values such as friendship, solidarity, and inclusion are cultivated, while discomfort is prevented through constant commitment to integration and the appreciation of diversity. Families and teachers are also supported in their educational role, and whenever deeper vulnerabilities emerge, specific social, health, or legal assistance is provided.

In a time marked by division and inequality, this experience represents a precious safeguard of cohesion and humanity: an educating community that sows peace starting from the smallest, building from below a more just, inclusive, and supportive society.

Frameworks (how to measure success – indicators)

This approach aligns with qualitative research methodology—particularly narrative inquiry and case study—which makes it possible to explore in depth the perceived effectiveness of the intervention from the beneficiaries’ point of view, bringing to light the trajectories of change and the meanings attributed to the educational experience, which in this case are widely positive.

Indicators for measurement

“20 stories of children from very different geographical contexts testify to the effectiveness of this support.”

Sources

Alla scuola della pace. Educare i bambini in un mondo globale, Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo (MI), 2017.