

# HOW TO USE

# COCOA POD GROUP CONTRACT



**Irish Aid**  
An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



# COCOA POD GROUP CONTRACT



## HOW TO USE THE COCOA POD GROUP CONTRACT

THE COCOA POD IS A WAY TO THINK ABOUT HOW YOUR GROUP WORKS TOGETHER.

IMAGINE YOUR GROUP AS A COCOA POD, AND EACH PERSON IS LIKE A COCOA BEAN INSIDE IT. JUST LIKE COCOA BEANS WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE CHOCOLATE, YOUR GROUP NEEDS TO WORK TOGETHER TO DO GREAT THINGS!

FOR YOUR POD TO GROW AND BE STRONG, IT NEEDS THREE THINGS: SUN, WATER, AND SOIL. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

### 1. SUN: YOUR GOAL (WHAT YOU'RE AIMING FOR)

THE SUN IS THE GOAL YOUR GROUP IS WORKING TOWARDS—IT'S WHAT KEEPS YOU MOVING FORWARD.

- DECIDE ON YOUR GOAL: WHAT IS THE GROUP TRYING TO DO? AGREE ON IT TOGETHER.
- WRITE IT DOWN: KEEP THE GOAL CLEAR AND SIMPLE, SO EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT TO FOCUS ON.
- REMEMBER IT: CHECK YOUR GOAL OFTEN TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE STILL ON TRACK.

#### EXAMPLE:

"OUR GOAL IS TO PLAN A FUN SCHOOL FUNDRAISER BY THE END OF THE MONTH."

### 2. WATER: WHAT THE GROUP NEEDS TO WORK WELL

WATER STANDS FOR THE THINGS YOUR GROUP NEEDS TO STAY STRONG—LIKE HOW YOU'LL WORK TOGETHER AND WHAT JOBS NEED TO BE DONE.

- TALK ABOUT YOUR STRENGTHS: WHAT IS EACH PERSON GOOD AT? WHAT CAN THEY DO TO HELP?
- SET UP THE BASICS: DECIDE HOW YOU'LL STAY ORGANIZED. WILL YOU MEET EVERY WEEK? USE WHATSAPP TO SHARE UPDATES? MAKE A LIST OF WHO'S DOING WHAT?
- KEEP THINGS FLOWING: MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING AND FEELS INCLUDED.

#### EXAMPLE:

- STRENGTHS: "I'M GOOD AT MAKING POSTERS. YOU'RE GREAT AT ORGANIZING EVENTS."
- PLAN: "WE'LL MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LUNCH TO CHECK OUR PROGRESS."

### 3. SOIL: YOUR GROUP RULES AND VALUES

THE SOIL IS LIKE THE FOUNDATION—IT'S WHAT HOLDS YOUR GROUP TOGETHER AND HELPS YOU GET ALONG.

- CHOOSE YOUR VALUES: WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOUR GROUP? BEING KIND? RESPECTING EVERYONE'S IDEAS?
- SET SIMPLE RULES: MAKE RULES EVERYONE AGREES TO, LIKE LISTENING TO EACH OTHER OR SHARING TASKS FAIRLY.
- CHECK YOUR SOIL: IF SOMETHING ISN'T WORKING, TALK ABOUT IT AND MAKE CHANGES.

#### EXAMPLE:

- VALUES: "WE VALUE TEAMWORK, KINDNESS, AND FAIRNESS."
- RULES: "EVERYONE GETS A CHANCE TO SPEAK, AND WE'LL TAKE TURNS LEADING THE MEETINGS."

## YOUR COCOA POD GROUP CONTRACT

ONCE YOU'VE AGREED ON YOUR SUN, WATER, AND SOIL, WRITE THEM DOWN. THIS IS YOUR GROUP'S PLAN TO WORK TOGETHER SUCCESSFULLY!

#### EXAMPLE CONTRACT:

1. SUN (GOAL): "WE WILL PLAN A FUN SCHOOL FUNDRAISER BY OCTOBER 31ST."

2. WATER (WHAT WE NEED):

- STRENGTHS: "EVERYONE WILL TAKE ON TASKS THEY'RE GOOD AT."
- PLAN: "MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SHARE UPDATES ON WHATSAPP."

3. SOIL (RULES AND VALUES):

- VALUES: "TEAMWORK, KINDNESS, AND FAIRNESS."
- RULES: "TAKE TURNS SPEAKING, AND FINISH TASKS ON TIME."

#### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- CHECK IN OFTEN: LOOK AT YOUR GROUP CONTRACT TO SEE IF YOU'RE STILL FOLLOWING IT.
- CELEBRATE WINS: WHEN YOU REACH A GOAL, TAKE TIME TO CELEBRATE!
- HELP EACH OTHER: EVERY BEAN IS IMPORTANT TO THE POD. MAKE SURE EVERYONE FEELS SUPPORTED.

BY WORKING TOGETHER AND FOLLOWING YOUR SUN, WATER, AND SOIL, YOUR GROUP WILL GROW STRONG AND REACH YOUR GOALS—JUST LIKE A HEALTHY COCOA POD!



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## SUN

(GOALS/GROWING TOWARDS)

## WATER

(CHARACTERISTICS/PRACTICAL NEEDS)

## SOIL

(GROUP VALUES/GROUND RULES)



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