



## EXTENSION ACTIVITY 2

# THE CURRENCY CHALLENGE

### STEP 1

1. As a whole-class or in small groups, encourage students to design a currency for your school using symbols (such as your school crest) that represent its history, its governance and its culture. For example:

**HISTORY:** When was your school formed?  
What is the history of your school?

**GOVERNANCE:** How is your school governed?

**CULTURE:** What is the ethos of your school?  
What is school-life like for students and staff who attend your school?



2. Don't forget to give your currency a name! For example, it could be the Mercy College dollar or you might like to create an entirely new name for your currency.
3. Calculate an exchange rate for your currency based on current rates for the \$, € and £.

### STEP 2

Imagine you were to print a quantity of this currency and use it within your school to purchase goods for students and staff e.g. lunch in the school canteen each day. Consider the following questions:

- How would you share this currency among the school population (students and staff)? Would everyone receive equal amounts?
- Should the males in the school receive more money than the females? Do you think men sometimes have greater access to money than women? (In Ireland? In India?)
- How much would your currency be worth in rupees?
- Could each student in your school live below the international poverty line on the equivalent of Rs68 per day?

