

Points of view

**IT'S FUN - IT'S
NOT LIKE OTHER
LESSONS**

**Citizenship
gets me involved**

**Finally -
people listen
to us!**

**I get the chance to
deal with things I feel
strongly about**

**I feel like I can
make a difference**

Further information

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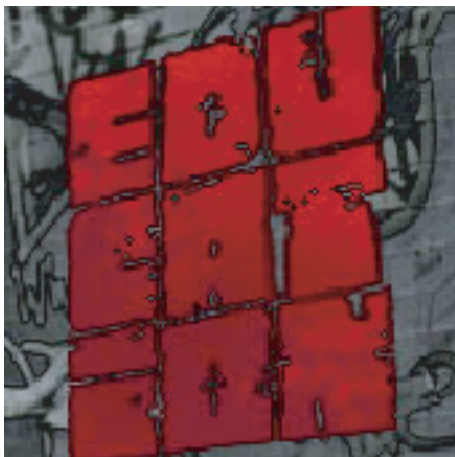


**Whalley Range
High School
6th Form**



Our Citizenship Statement

At Whalley Range High School 6th Form, we have explored a wide variety of issues and themes, and have engaged in many different activities in order to better understand what is meant by citizenship. Citizenship has been our chance to make a difference. We have our own 'Citizenship Statement', which is there to teach and remind us all the time what Citizenship means.



'Citizenship is about understanding the world around us. It is concerned with our communities – local, national and global. There is a need to learn about these communities, who makes the decisions in these communities, and how we can get involved in and make a difference to these communities. Citizenship for WRHS post-16 students is about "getting your voice heard and having an influence."

(Year 13 student)

Evaluation

Evaluation is the opportunity to work out how much has been learnt through engagement in citizenship activities. It takes on a variety of forms:

- Self-assessment
- Peer-assessment
- Presentations
- Group debates
- ICT recording
- Diaries and logs
- Teacher feedback
- Display work

Most importantly it is an opportunity for the young person to reflect on both the content and the process of their learning activities. They can gauge where they were at various stages – the beginning, middle and end (sometimes using ICT to record this.)



Assessment is then a planning tool – informing young people of how to progress.

The 6th Form Action Committee

Who are we and what do we do?

- We are students elected democratically as representatives of our forms/tutor groups
- We are the voice of the 6th Form body
- We debate issues raised by the tutor groups, attempting to come to a reasonable solution to the issues – these solutions must be of benefit to the student body and not just the Action Committee members

Issues

A wide variety of issues have been raised which affect the student body both directly and indirectly. Greater focus has been on issues which have direct impact on students – the learning environment, the leisure environment, and facilities. There have also been discussions about prayer facilities for all, about school rules with regard to dress code, and accessibility to computers. Other issues discussed have been the environment, recycling, the war in Iraq, election time and others! Some of the issues raised have been taken to decision makers in order to influence their views – and hopefully make change in reality!

Skills Gained

As a committee we have gained a whole range of (transferable) skills and experiences, such as:

- Communication
- Listening
- Negotiation
- Debating
- Teamwork
- Compromise
- Decision making
- Enquiry

Citizenship and the Tutorial

At Whalley Range High School 6th Form, we are organised into form/tutor groups, depending on the level of course(s) we are studying. The tutorial programme covers a wide range of themes, from work experience, to further & higher education applications, to career advice, and citizenship.

Citizenship has provided us with a variety of opportunities. Some tutor groups have explored what democracy means and how it works in this country. These groups have then gone on to consider the meaning and strengths of cultural diversity – both in the 6th Form and in wider society.

Other tutor groups have had a freer opportunity to choose issues which they are most concerned about. Other students have had the chance to explore these issues, the aim has been to get us to become active and try to get involved. We have to keep a 'diary of action' which will form part of a portfolio.

Yet other students amongst us have had the chance to use the LSN 'citizenship through photography' pack. This was well used and received – again students could highlight issues that bothered them and create displays with words and pictures – which would hopefully influence others!

Business, Citizenship and Enterprise Days

Each year there are 3 days which are set aside for special events and activities to help us explore and investigate citizenship issues in greater depth. A whole day means we can really get involved in discussing issues or have an opportunity to find out about new things. Past events have included –

■ A Citizenship Health day

Students discussed health issues in the local, national and global community that feel affect them and then participated in a range of workshops exploring healthy lifestyle options

■ A Crime and Justice Day

We worked within tutorial groups to look at the criminal justice system and put together role plays to investigate the perspectives of judge, criminal and victim in a range of different situations.

■ A Great Debate on Asylum Seekers

Students prepared arguments connected with issues raised by the situation of refugees to the UK. They presented these to each other with assistance from the University Debating Society.

■ Outside Speakers

A vice Consul from the U.S. Embassy visited the school and participated in a Question and Answer session concerning issues such as the war in Iraq and Gun Laws in the USA.

Volunteering

There are a wide range of opportunities to take part in active citizenship, including volunteer work:

Sixth Form Leaders – act as role models and mentors with year 7 students by assisting form tutors to organise activities and working with younger students on an individual and group basis.

Peer Mediators – train with Bully Free Zone in conflict resolution techniques and work as a team to help resolve issues with younger students and train those who wish to be mentors or peer supporters.

Learning Mentors – in maths and english. Students visit younger students who need support to help them improve in these skills.

Charity Committee – This includes a large number of students who work together responding to specific issues according to need.

Millennium Volunteers – An opportunity to work in the community contributing to voluntary or caring organisations locally.

The Benefits – of volunteer work are more than you would assume. It develops your communication skills and increases your patience and confidence. Volunteer work is a good activity to include on your CV – it shows that you are socially confident and committed. But the benefit it gives to others is the most satisfying part of it.