

CITIZENSHIP ACTION

The best forms of Citizenship Action build students' 'sense of political agency' and are an entitlement for all students. The examples below are all based on real projects which schools have organised.

	Raising Awareness	Organising Projects	Making Presentations	Using New Media
School Community	All students run a poster campaign across the school to promote the importance of school council elections.	Students set up and run a project to recycle paper in their school.*	All students make a presentation to Head of Departments about how changes to teaching could improve their learning.	All students submit their views on the school to their school council via a comments page on the school council's website.
Local Community	Students send out a joint press release to local newspapers calling on the Council to improve the safety of a road crossing near their school.	Students write and publish a community magazine which deals with both serious and fun issues. It is distributed to schools and youth clubs in the area.*	All students invite their local councillors to a set up a 'school surgery' so they can express their views on local issues, including street lighting around the school.	All students make videos about how to stay safe on the streets and then show them to younger students during assembly.
National Community	All students write to national newspapers about their views on the impending Iraq War. Five letters are subsequently published.	All students investigate whether the voting age should be lowered to 16 and then contribute to a national consultation on the issue.	All students invite their MP to a special 'Citizenship Assembly' and lobby her on a range of topical issues.	Students organise a mass Facebook campaign to stop the government deporting one of their peers who is an asylum seeker. 10,000 people sign up in support.
Global Community	Students join a march in central London to campaign for an end to Third World Debt.*	Students sell Fairtrade products during lunch and break time.*	All students investigate the genocide in Darfur, organise a petition and present it to their local MP.	All students sign an online petition calling on the government to fulfil the promises it made at the G8 summit to 'Make Poverty History'.

* These actions may be hard to do as an entitlement for all students, but they can be run as an extension to an entitlement, for example all students could produce posters about Fairtrade, and a smaller number could then sell Fairtrade products at break and lunch.

The following are NOT good quality Citizenship actions on their own: charity fund-raising, work experience, reception duty, classroom display etc.