

Citizenship's Role in Transforming Education

At the heart of new initiatives:

New secondary curriculum aims to develop young people who are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. Citizenship builds Personal, Learning & Thinking Skills. Citizenship is an Opening Minds competency. Student voice is at the heart of Personalised Learning

Contributes to major policies:

Citizenship can contribute to the Duty to Promote Community Cohesion. Making a positive contribution is central to Every Child Matters.

Is a subject in its own right:

There has been a short course Citizenship Studies GCSE since 2002, AS & A levels from 2008, and there will be a full course GCSE from 2009.

Improves standards:

A study of 'participative schools', concluded that they achieved higher GCSE results and lower numbers of exclusion. A school in south east London achieved a 33% improvement in GCSE results after adopting Citizenship as a whole school initiative.

A new subject:

which demands specialist teachers like all other subjects

A new kind of subject:

with a pedagogy characterised by student voice and action

More than a subject:

with the potential to transform the school ethos

Fulfils legal obligations:

Citizenship is a statutory subject at KS3 and 4, and may get a subject inspection by Ofsted. Student voice is part of a school's self-evaluation form.

Citizenship pedagogy builds motivation, engagement and happiness!

Citizenship puts students at the heart of learning and the life of the school. Research shows that students feel most 'intellectually engaged' when they have a say in their learning and do things that had an impact on the real world. The 'World Expert on Happiness' says happiness is "a sense of participation in determining the content of life."

Supports human rights and democracy:

"All children have the right to a say in all decisions that affect them."
Article 12, UN Convention on Rights of the Child.
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"Unless we become a nation of engaged citizens, our democracy is not secure."
Lord Chancellor, 1998.