

**Welcome to the newsletter which aims to support the teachers and the teaching of citizenship in Gateshead schools.**

The Healthy Schools and Citizenship team would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of teachers in Gateshead and congratulate them on their many successes, not only in establishing citizenship effectively in their schools, but for providing their pupils and students with so many exciting and valuable experiences.

We are happy to report on some of our schools activities in this newsletter and would like to hear from any school who would like to share something they have done with others.

## Inspections of Citizenship from the Summer 2005

Aspects of citizenships will feature in school inspections:-

- such as pupils contribution to the school and community
- schools will have to provide evidence that they meet statutory requirements or not
- subjects will be inspected through surveys. (1 - 2 days - a sample)

Key questions:-

- Does the subject have effective leadership?
- Does it have sufficient time and weight? Is it valued?
- Evidence of scheme of work, showing National Curriculum coverage.
- Links with strands.
- Assessment, recording and reporting systems.

Citizenship remains an important, government priority.

However in many schools Ofsted reports state that:-

- there is a continuing lack of recognition of citizenship as a subject
- cross curricular - approaches are proving problematic
- many schools assume that citizenship can be accommodated as a whole or in part within PSHE
- time available is very limited
- topics are covered in 1 lesson, no progression
- there is little depth in the work and little or no record of what has been done.

**The 3 strands**

- It is often not understood that enquiring and communications and participation and responsible action should be exercised in the citizenship context.
- Enquiring and communication invite depth - including research, discussion and presentation.

- Participation and responsible action have been addressed.

In order to move forwards schools should recognise that:-

- This is not just another initiative
- Headteachers - Senior Managers full support is needed for Citizenship to develop.
- Hard decisions need to be made by schools on the curriculum, timetabling and staffing.

Action needs to start now - long before your Ofsted Inspection, for example citizenship Audit

- School Citizenship Leader/Co-ordinator Team in place
- Policy
- Scheme of work
- Assessment - Recording - Reporting procedures

(Summary of presentation by Scott Harrison HMI)

## Secondary Citizenship Support Visits

In the Spring and Summer Terms of 2004, Citizenship support meetings, either in person or via telephone were held with the community Secondary schools in Gateshead. Only one school did not participate.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish how far the school had been able to progress with the implementation and development of citizenship and to identify training and support needs.

The following questions which formed the basis of discussion are followed by teachers' comments and conclusions.

### 1. What progress has taken place since the last support meeting?

The initial impetus to provide for and deliver citizenship had died down in some schools. It had ceased to be a priority and in some cases money, time, effort and staffing for citizenship had been scaled down. The HOD of one school in particular was concerned that the proposed management plans for citizenship would be detrimental to the subject.

### 2. What are your current methods of delivery?

Varied from discreet lessons, to a cross curricular approach with discreet citizenship days. In a number of schools, Citizenship is in the area of 'Guidance'. All schools reported that there was provision for citizenship in some form.

### 3. Have you completed a monitoring and evaluation process with regard to teaching of the required units?

Some schools have effective monitoring and evaluation processes in place, others have yet to develop their structures for this but as usual time, or lack of it, is a major factor here.

### 4. Has the management structure and programme of meetings remained the same and do you regard these as effective?

Answers varied, but in general it is very much left to the person in charge of citizenship to oversee all aspects, with management or other staff having little or no involvement.

### 5. Has any training been accessed at individual or whole school since that identified at the last meeting or are there any plans for the future?

A minority had not been involved in any training. Some had trained other staff in their schools.

### 6. Do you attend the support meetings at Dryden?

About 50% attend the support meetings for guidance, training and networking. Those not attending gave lack of time as a reason.

### 7. Do you find the newsletters helpful?

A majority felt these were useful for keeping up to date and lessen feelings of isolation, but a minority did not read them and felt they were too long.

### 8. What kind of support would you be interested in?

- Meeting together to give each other support
- Sharing good practice - looking at other structures that are effective, examples of work and programmes of study
- More time to co-ordinate the subject effectively
- More support, interest and commitment from other members of staff
- Support with the planning and organisation of discreet 'themed' citizenship days

### 9. Has a format to record pupil experiences i.e. a pupil log been agreed?

Answers included own school structures, portfolios, pupil journals, teacher evaluations, none,

### 10. Where next-problems and possibilities

- Need specific citizenship lessons
- Develop self-assessment
- Develop assessment
- Improve staffing and management time
- Possibly introduce GCSE short course
- Develop monitoring
- Develop a formal way to record evidence of work
- Providing support to the various curriculum areas which include citizenship
- Re-assurance needed on reporting procedures
- Develop more pupil involvement

## School Councils Guidelines

The School Council Guidelines were launched at the Gateshead Headteachers Conference in October to help schools establish effective 'School Councils.'

It will ensure that Gateshead in response to the forthcoming Children's Act 'Every Child Matters' will include a continuing commitment to listening to young people's voices, recognising this as key in 'helping pupils do their best and build on their achievements. (DFEE 1999) The DfES Guidance makes a clear commitment to increasing the participation of children and young people to acquire, practice and develop these skills through school councils, which provide structures that make this possible. The guidelines provide a framework for teachers to develop an effective School Council covering:-

- Suggestions on how to get a School Council started
- Suggestions for Agenda items
- A draft Constitution
- How to measure effectiveness and
- A check list of 'good practice.'

For further information contact Don Sweeney at Dryden PDC. Tel 0191 4338667 or email [donsweeney@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:donsweeney@gateshead.gov.uk)

## Principles of Children's and Young People's Participation

Involving children and young people in decision-making should be underpinned by the following principles:-

- Clear and visible commitment to involve children and young people with a route map of how to make it happen.
- Children and young people's involvement is valued
- Children and young people have equality of opportunity to be involved
- Children's and young people's participation and involvement are continually evaluated and reviewed
- Quality standards

Further details available in the Working Together document.

## Citizenship and Self Evaluation

How well would your school do in answering the questions below?

- Who is responsible for leading and co-ordinating citizenship?
- What planning has been carried out?
- How much time is given to Citizenship?
- What types of provision are made for Citizenship eg. through other subjects?
- How are you assessing and recognising achievement in Citizenship. (Assessment, Recording, Reporting)
- What resources do your school use?
- How is Citizenship monitored in your school?

## This is Scary Guy - and no guesses on how he got his nickname.

Covered from head to toe in tattoos, with studs around his eyes and through his nose, the 20-stone blue-haired American has been touring Gateshead schools, talking about bullying.

His message is simple and straight forward - don't judge a book by its cover. He wants young people to put prejudice and intolerance aside and show love and acceptance to each other.

Over a period of two weeks he told thousands of Gateshead's children and young people how he used to be filled with negative energy of anger and hate and judged people in an adverse way. "I was a professional name caller and hater," he said.

The Scary Guy worked as a tattoo artist in Tucson, Arizona, but his life changed forever when he saw an advert in his local newspaper by a rival tattoo artist, saying "Are you tired of dealing with scary guys with war paint facial tattoos?"

His immediate reaction was to question why he was being picked on and to get revenge on the person who placed the ad. However, after some soul-searching he realised he was no better than his rival and decided to change his life by preaching about positive behaviour to young people.

Now he tours the world on a crusade, visiting schools, corporations, police and military bases to encourage people to eliminate hate, violence and prejudice. You could hear a pin drop in school halls all over Gateshead as he kept the children and teachers



spellbound with tales of how people judge him by his looks, not his character, or what is inside.

And when it came to question time, there was a sea of arms as students battled to catch his attention.

At the end he challenged his listeners to spend the next seven days saying not one negative word about anyone and to spread positive energy.

"Everyone hears the message but not everyone will follow it. It won't be easy but the reward is worth the effort," he said.

Gateshead schools who benefited from a "Scary Guy" visit this term were:- Kingsmeadow, Hookergate, Joseph Swan, Heworth Grange, Thomas Hepburn, Lord Lawson of Beamish and their feeder primary schools.

**"We aim at no less than a change in the political culture of this country both nationally and locally: for people to think of themselves as active citizens, willing, able and equipped to have an influence in public life" CRICK report 1998**

Education for citizenship aims to provide young people with the knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes and values that will help them to:-

- Play an effective and active role in society in relation to their local, national and international communities
- Become informed citizens aware of their rights, responsibilities and duties

- Realise that they can have influence and make a difference in their communities.

It involves young people in active and participative learning in a range of settings, including in classrooms, in the life of the school and in the wider community.

## National Anti - Bullying

Over fifty Gateshead schools attended the half day training on Monday 8th November at Dryden PDC.

The National Anti - Bullying Programme - "What's the Score on Bullying in our School" was delivered by Rowantree. The training followed the Ofsted and DfES guidelines and supported the Governments Anti-Bullying Alliance strategy. All staff who attended received a resource file, a CD and video to help disseminate the training to school teaching and non-teaching staff.

The training also met the requirements of the National Healthy School Standard (NHSS) and Gateshead Healthy School Award (GHSA) Charter Point 2 Citizenship and Charter Point 8 - Emotional Health and Well Being.

Another day's training will be held for schools who have not received the training and resources on **Tuesday 22nd February.**

For further information contact Alun Davies, Health Education Adviser 0191 4338670 at Dryden PDC.

## Bullies BEWARE!

This term four Gateshead schools have newly trained 'Buddies' on duty in playgrounds. These children are from Y5/6 and have volunteered to give up playtimes for one day per week, in order to help their fellow pupils. Buddies can help staff and pupils by finding friends for lonely children, teaching games to a bored child and listening to and talking to children if they have problems, all of which links with the Citizenship programmes in schools.

The number of school benefiting from Buddy Systems is growing. Any school wishing to set up Playground Buddies can contact Carole Robson, Healthy Schools Co-ordinator for further information - Tel 0191 4338671.


**TYNE AND WEAR**

## More than careers work Connexions support for Citizenship and PSHE

Connexions Tyne & Wear in Gateshead can offer a range of support to school staff responsible for the delivery of cross-curricular themes in PSHE and Citizenship.

Our team of Personal Advisers have both the expertise and resources to offer sessions upon many of the units set out in the non-statutory frameworks for Key Stage Four, including:

### Citizenship

- Challenging racism and discrimination
- Business and enterprise
- Rights and responsibilities in the world of work

### PSHE

- Building confidence, responsibility and making the most of abilities
- Ensuring healthy, safer lifestyles
- The importance of good personal relationships and respecting differences

Connexions is also able to offer free training and INSET opportunities upon:

- The use of the Real Game series
- Viewpoint - interactive youth consultation software
- How Progress File can support Citizenship/PSHE outcomes
- National curriculum developments, including an annual Spring Conference

Several local schools have chosen to integrate the work of the Connexions Tyne & Wear Peer Project - a trained team of Peer Tutors who deliver structured workshops upon a range of personal development themes.

A termly Curriculum Network Meeting is also organised at a local venue for Gateshead schools, proving an opportunity for lesson co-ordinators and Personal Advisers to share good practice and signpost further support.

The professional reference library within the Connexions Centre also houses a large range of customised materials to supplement the delivery of Citizenship and PSHE; resources can be loaned or 1sampled1 to compliment existing schemes of work.

Further information on all of the above is available from:

Gavin Bradshaw Tel: 0191 4434 504  
g.bradshaw@connexions-tw.co.uk

Gen Barlow Tel: 0191 4432893  
g.barlow@connexions-tw.co.uk

## RESOURCES

### Working Together

Giving Children and Young people a say.  
DfES - Curriculum & Standards Guidance.  
Status - Statutory  
Issued April 2004  
Ref DfES/0134/2004  
Copies available from  
DfES Publications Tel: 08456022260  
Email: [dfes@prolog.uk.com](mailto:dfes@prolog.uk.com)  
Website: [www.dfes.gov.uk/participationguidance](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/participationguidance)

### The School Self-Evaluation Tool for Citizenship Education

Produced by DfES, available from  
[www.dfes.gov.uk/citizenship](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/citizenship)

### Promoting children & young people's participation through the National Healthy School Standard (NHSS)

Copies available from Health Development  
Agency (HDA) Tel 0870 1214194 Fax 08701214195  
email [had@twoten.press.net](mailto:had@twoten.press.net)  
[www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk](http://www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk)

### A.C.T Association for Citizenship Teaching

ACT champions the teaching of Citizenship to all young people. It offers support to teachers through local and national networks. ACT promotes the exchange of good practice, skills, and resources. For further information contact:  
ACT Freepost NAT 22389 London EC2B 2BR  
Tel 020 73670501 Fax 020 73670501  
Web [www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk](http://www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk)  
Email [info@teachingcitizenship.org.uk](mailto:info@teachingcitizenship.org.uk)

### Citizenship and the Media

- BBC 'Newsround'  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews>
- Case studies in Culture
- Media and Citizenship
- Citizenship Foundation website  
[www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk/main/resource](http://www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk/main/resource)

## HEALTHY AND ACTIVE SCHOOLS TEAM

- Alun Davies - Health Education Adviser. Tel: 433 8670
- Linda Robinson - School Drugs Adviser. Tel: 433 8672
- Don Sweeney - Extended Schools & Community Cohesion Co-ordinator. Tel: 433 8667
- Carole Robson - Healthy Schools Co-ordinator. Tel: 433 8671
- Nick Mawson - Sex & Relationship Health Development Officer. Tel: 433 8669

All based at Dryden Professional Development Centre,  
Evistones Road, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 5UR.  
Tel: 0191 433 8500, Fax: 0191 491 1394

## HEALTHY SCHOOL CORE TEAM MEMBERS - HEALTH PROMOTIONS CONTACTS

Based at 14 Regent Terrace, Gateshead NE8 1LU

- Claire Mawson - Senior Health Promotion Specialist (Young People). Tel: 0191 478 9061.
- Tom Hall - Health Promotion Officer. Tel: 0191 4789061

## CITIZENSHIP ADVISER

- Lesley Beadle - RE and Citizenship Adviser  
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