

# Citizenship *in Gateshead Schools*

Since 2002, Citizenship has been a statutory National Curriculum subject at Key Stages 3 & 4. It is also a non-statutory element of the primary curriculum, linked with the PSHE programme.

Citizenship education has been introduced not to tell young people what to think, but to help to equip them with the knowledge and skills to deal confidently with issues that affect them as individuals and as members of the national and international communities.



## What is citizenship?

Citizenship is central to all that we do. All our children contribute to decision-making and organisation, taking more responsibility as they get older. Citizenship is more than a part of the curriculum. It is a way of life for the whole school community.

*"Dame Mavis Grant, Headteacher, Canning School, Newcastle upon Tyne."*

- teaches children and young people about our economy and democratic institutions and values, encourages respect for different national religions and ethnic identities, and develops pupils ability to reflect on issues and participate in discussions. Citizenship education can be divided into three strands:-
  - i) Rights and Responsibilities - Pupils learning self-confidence and socially and morally responsible behaviour - in and outside the classroom, towards those in authority and each other.
  - ii) Communities and identities - Pupils learning how to become positively involved in the life and concerns of their local community including community involvement and services.
  - iii) Government and Democracy - Pupils learning about the institutions, issues, problems and practices of our democracy and how citizens can make themselves effective in public life.

**For further information about Citizenship in the National curriculum visit:**  
[www.qca.org.uk/citizenship](http://www.qca.org.uk/citizenship)

## Citizenship education:

- aims to give pupils the knowledge skills and understanding to play an effective role in society at local, national and international levels.
- helps them to become informed, thoughtful and responsible citizens who are aware of their duties and rights. Citizenship promotes pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, increases their self-confidence and encourages the taking of personal responsibility both in and beyond the classroom.
- encourages pupils to play a positive part in the life of their schools, local community and the wider world.

**Social health - naturally embraces pupils' relations with the wider world. Just as learning about personal and social health highlights the effects on our actions on each other, citizenship takes personal responsibility further. It highlights the opportunities we all have to make a positive contribution to society. In growing into informed, responsible citizens, everything that happens in and around school can be influential for children and young people. All children, young people need real opportunities to become actively involved in the life of the school and its community.**

[www.dfes.gov.uk/citizenship](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/citizenship)

# Every Child Matters (ECM)

## The 5 National Outcomes for schools

1. New safeguarding responsibilities.
2. Promoting healthy lifestyles - children young people.
3. Pupils making a positive contribution to the life of the school and the local community.
4. Enjoying a healthy lifestyle.
5. Education is the way forward - out of the poverty trap. The ECM change for children programme aims to ensure that policies and services are designed around the needs of children and young people and that they are involved in the decision making about this as an entitlement.

**ECM** - if the outcomes are to be achieved School delivery of Citizenship has to be more than just a subject.

Every Child Matters - the Outcomes for Children - our Citizens of the future.

- 1. Being Healthy** - enjoying good physical and mental well-being and living a healthy lifestyle.  
Citizenship - issues of public and social policy.  
PSHE - Healthy lifestyle choices.  
Schools achieving Healthy School Status - Gateshead Healthy School Award.
- 2. Staying Safe** - being protected from harm and neglect and growing up being able to look after themselves.  
Citizenship - Legal and human rights, criminal justice.  
PSHE - Managing risk, relationship, environment, travel School Travel Plan.
- 3. Enjoying and Achieving** - getting the most out of life and developing skills into adulthood.  
Citizenship - Topical political, spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.  
PSHE - Personal targets, participating - celebrating success.
- 4. Making a positive contribution** - realising partnership with the community and with wider society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour.  
Citizenship - Democracy, School/Student Council peer mentoring, volunteering.  
PSHE - Being consulted upon matters that affect them, bullying, racism, making a difference.
- 5. Economic well being - overcoming socio-economic disadvantages** - and living life to the full.  
\* Citizenship - Public Services how they are funded.  
\* PSHE Careers Education and guidance, career plans, personal finance, education - qualifications  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

## Awards

- **Impetus Award** - Shared values in action. Active Citizenship. A partnership award programme promoting values rights and responsibilities. Launched in 2003 - participants are encouraged to explore "what our shared values are and should be - in the context of the Human Rights Act, and to develop the confidence to put those values into practice in their schools, youth organisations and local communities." An Impetus certificate is awarded to every submission that demonstrates:-

- Exploration of shared rights & responsibilities.
- Creative application of shared values.
- Whole school/organisation involvement.
- Community engagement.

Further information and registration forms available from Health Education Adviser, Dryden PDC, Tel 0191 4338500 or Institute for Global Ethics UK Trust, 3-4 Bentinck Street, London, W1U 2EE. Tel 020 74861954 email [ashort@globalethics.org.uk](mailto:ashort@globalethics.org.uk)

- **Princess Diana Memorial awards**  
All schools with pupils from age 12-18 years can nominate a pupil or group for pupils for the "Award". For further information Tel 0208 7099935 [www.education.org.uk](http://www.education.org.uk)
- **YST Innovations Award**
- **Deutsche Bank Spotlight Award** Tel 0207 6088184 [www.justdosomething.net/spotlight](http://www.justdosomething.net/spotlight)
- **Pamela Sheridan Award for SRE**  
- email [pamelasheridan@fpa.org.uk](mailto:pamelasheridan@fpa.org.uk)
- **Philip Lawrence Award**
- **Citizenship in Action** - Barclays New Futures sponsored by Barclays supported by DfES & CSV. CSV make a difference Tel 020 76431418 visit [www.barclaysnewfutures.co.uk](http://www.barclaysnewfutures.co.uk)

## Charity Events

- **Jump Rope for Heart** - British Heart Foundation. Tel 020 74879461
- **Heart Beat** Tel 02074877149  
[bhf.org.uk/heartbeat](http://bhf.org.uk/heartbeat) [www.bhfg.org.uk](http://www.bhfg.org.uk)
- **Comic Relief** [www.sportsrelief.com](http://www.sportsrelief.com)

## Resources

- **Coping with Citizenship** - Coping with Life, Coping with Bullying, Coping with Family Change. Tel/Fax 01670 813470  
[www.coping-with-life.org.uk](http://www.coping-with-life.org.uk)
- **Citizenship - the challenge** - Primary School ISBN No 1-873460-392  
[www.sportrelief.com](http://www.sportrelief.com) - Comic Relief.

## Citizenship

All children, young people need opportunities to learn about "Citizenship" both within the curriculum - in classroom lessons - but these messages should also be endorsed and reiterated in all other aspects of school life and within the local community. These opportunities may also be delivered within other curriculum subject areas eg Physical Education - Step into Sport - Junior/Community Sports Leaders Award, together with wide range of organisations eg Duke of Edinburghs Award - Public Service linked with First Aid - British Red Cross, St John's Ambulance, The Scouts/Girl Guides.

## School Council/Student Council

Links with the National Healthy School and Gateshead Healthy School Award criteria. Citizenship theme as part of Whole School and Gateshead Healthy School Award criteria. Citizenship theme as part of Whole School Approach - *"the school recognises that all aspects of school life can have an impact on the development of pupils in becoming informed, active and responsible citizens."* *"the school provides opportunities to be actively involved in the life of their school and local community."*

**School Council** guidance October 2004 endorsed by Gateshead Youth Council, Hear By Right in Gateshead, Gateshead children and Young People's Rights Service and Healthy Schools.

Gateshead Council intends to ensure that its response to the Children Act, a development of the "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. Schools are expected to teach all students the necessary skills for effective participation giving them a significant, effective, participation representative and meaningful "voice" in the life of the school. The most effective way for them to acquire, practice and develop these skills is through "School Councils".

**Gateshead Youth Assembly -**  
**tel 0191 4901900**  
**email [gbyoc.b&internet.com](mailto:gbyoc.b&internet.com)**

## Key factors to start building an effective School Council.

**To establish or improve a School Council it is essential to have:-**

- Head teacher and senior leadership team support
- facilitate peer led elections of Councillors
- set the School Council up to be an active team rather than a consultative forum.

Effective School Councils take time, energy and commitment but are a highly valuable tool. Recognised as a sign of a school's success, effective School Councils provide an opportunity for staff and pupils to work together to improve and make their school a successful school.

Ref:- Ofsted (Nov 2005) Citizenship Through Participation and Responsible Action.

**[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)**

School Council UK **[www.schoolcouncils.org.uk](http://www.schoolcouncils.org.uk)**

## Respect - the educational agenda

The Government is pursuing a 'Respect' agenda. Further information is available on the website **[www.respect.gov.uk](http://www.respect.gov.uk)**

A great deal of the agenda is about tackling anti-social behaviour.

ASBOs are part of it. A section of the Respect Action Plan is about measures to be taken in schools, relating to matters including discipline, truancy and exclusion.

### The educational respect agenda

Whilst some of the issues around respect are political ones, pupils/students can discuss behaviour and attitudes during PSHE & C lessons.

What respect means to young people

- *'Treating others in a way that you would like to be treated.'*
- *'Being able to be the way I am without being bullied.'*
- *'Not offending or damaging someone else's feelings or property.'*
- *'Appreciating someone, even though they are from another country - they are different.'*
- *Consideration for others.'*

**(Respect Action Plan)**

## School Council - Pupil Voice

School Councils are becoming the widely accepted vehicle for schools to facilitate pupil participation.

School Councils are not only an indicator of a successful school but an important contributing factor to a school's success. 'A School Council should be a key indicator of a successful and democratic school'. (Ofsted 2005)

Pupil participation and school improvement have been linked to a number of research projects, which found that higher than average levels of student participation were associated with lower levels of exclusion, higher attendance and higher levels of attainment at GCSE when compared with other similar schools.

## Ofsted and School Councils

Schools that have effective structures for student voice and pupil participation such as School Councils are now graded in Ofsted Inspections in light of the Every Child Matters (ECM) guidelines under the personal development and well-being.

Under the new framework Ofsted Inspectors are encouraged to talk to School Councils to gain a picture of what the pupils/students think of their school. Attendance at a School Council meeting can provide evidence on how the school is doing.

Inspection reports must now include 'a brief letter to pupils giving the main findings of the inspection. These letters are addressed to the School Council. The letter to learners - has to be concise in plain language and clearly outlining the findings of the inspection.

Ofsted is looking for School Councils that are genuinely representative of the school. All pupils should know who their representatives are and how they can access them to air their views.

'Bottom - up' participation requires there to be regular meetings in class/forms as well as within a School Council which encourages all pupils to engage in school issues.

## Every Child Matters ECM & School Councils

The new Ofsted Inspection framework asks Inspectors to directly report on the extent to which a school enables **learners** to:-

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

Effective School Councils support the ECM 5 outcomes in a variety of ways

### Being Healthy

Confidence and communication skills can be developed from being involved with class and School Councils. Pupils can develop emotional resilience. They can also help make their peers healthier by eg improving food in the dining room and promoting sports activities and competitions.

### Staying Safe

Effective School Councils produce peer leadership, openness and awareness. These qualities help to make schools safer and happier places. The most effective anti-bullying schemes are led by pupils.

### Enjoying and achieving

By taking the opportunity to become involved in the school community, essential life skills such as listening, diplomacy, compromise and communication are developed.

Effective participation structures in schools help raise attainment by improving the learning environment.

### Making a positive contribution

Through School Councils, pupils' belief in their ability to make a difference develops. Life skills learned through active participation enables pupils to contribute to their local community and wider society.

### Achieving economic well-being

Many School Councils are given a grant to manage. The responsibility of running a budget helps pupils develop economic and financial awareness. School Councils decide on what to allocate funding for eg sports equipment, disco.

**It is the far - reaching impact that School Councils can have on schools that makes them a good indicator of a successful school.**

## Contacts

### Learning & Children - Raising Achievement Services

- Inspector/Citizenship
- Adviser RE and Citizenship
- Health Education Adviser
- School Drugs Adviser
- Sex & Relationship Health Development Officer
- Healthy School Consultants

**All based at Dryden Professional Development Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead, NE9 5UR. Tel 0191 4338500.**

- Manager - Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS), Dryden PDC  
Tel 0191 4338692
- Gateshead Children's Rights Officer, Civic Centre  
0191 4333000
- ACT NE Tel 0191 3834557 Chair  
ann.nelson@durham.gov.uk
- Northumbria Police - Youth Issues Officer  
0191 4547555
- Connexions Advisers - gateshead@  
connexions.tw.co.uk Tel 0191 4434504 /  
0191 4432893.

## Websites

- [www.gatesheadhealthyschools.org](http://www.gatesheadhealthyschools.org)
- [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)
- [www.qca.org.uk/citizenship](http://www.qca.org.uk/citizenship)
- [www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk](http://www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk)
- [www.dfes.gov.uk/participationguidance](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/participationguidance)
- [www.dfes.gov.uk/citizenship](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/citizenship)
- [www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk](http://www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk)
- [www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk](http://www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk)
- [www.csv.org.uk](http://www.csv.org.uk)
- [www.csvcommunitypartners.org.uk](http://www.csvcommunitypartners.org.uk)
- [www.globalstudent/orum.org](http://www.globalstudent/orum.org)
- [www.youthsporttrust.org](http://www.youthsporttrust.org) (Step into Sport)
- [www.sfe.co.uk](http://www.sfe.co.uk)
- [www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet)
- [www.g-nation.co.uk](http://www.g-nation.co.uk)
- [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)
- [www.headsup.org.uk](http://www.headsup.org.uk)
- [www.barclaysnewfutures.co.uk](http://www.barclaysnewfutures.co.uk)
- [www.euoparl.org.uk](http://www.euoparl.org.uk)
- [www.eurosport.en.int/charter/pdf/](http://www.eurosport.en.int/charter/pdf/)