

Citizenship Action

The best forms of Citizenship action build pupils' 'sense of political agency' and are an entitlement for all pupils. 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 pupils run a poster campaign across the school to promote the importance of school council elections.	Pupils set up and run a project to recycle paper in their school.*	All pupils make a presentation to Head of Departments about how changes to teaching could improve their learning.	All pupils submit their views on the school to their school council via a comments page on the school council's website.
Local Community	Pupils send out a joint press release to local newspapers calling on the Council to improve the safety of a road crossing near their school.	Pupils 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 pupils 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.	Pupils work in small groups and use their phone cameras to take photos or make a short film about how to stay safe on the streets and share with their class as part of a local investigation.
National Community	All pupils write to national newspapers about their views on the the conflict in Syria. Five letters are subsequently published.	All pupils investigate whether the voting age should be lowered to 16 and then contribute to a national consultation on the issue.	All pupils invite their MP to a special 'Citizenship Assembly' and lobby her on a range of topical issues.	Pupils 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	Pupils debate in class which aspects relating to world debt and poverty they should investigate further.*	Pupils sell Fairtrade products during lunch and break time.*	All pupils investigate the role of the UN in the conflict in Syria and write a letter to the British Foreign Secretary about their thoughts.	Pupils set up a Twitter conversation to discuss the challenge of helping migrants fleeing across the Mediterranean Sea from conflict and poverty.

* These actions may be hard to do as an entitlement for all pupils, but they can be run as an extension to an entitlement, eg. all pupils could produce posters about Fairtrade, and a smaller number could then sell Fairtrade products during breaks.

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