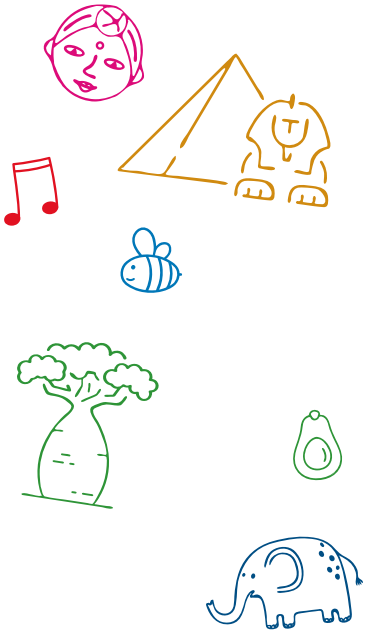
Good Practice Guidelines

Teaching about Development



Poverty, climate change and inequality are some of the greatest challenges facing humanity today, and countries and people everywhere working together in partnership to achieve the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development is key to addressing these challenges. Ireland is playing an important part in this global effort to create a better world and a better future.

It is vital that children are educated about these issues and the ways that they can contribute to a better world, as solution-focused global citizens. Children's ability to understand, engage and undertake action is related to their age and personal experience. Teaching about development and related issues must be done in an age appropriate way, and in a way that is sensitive to the diversity of children in each classroom setting.

You are best placed to know about the needs and interests of your own class, but you might find some of the guidelines below useful to consider as you embark, with your pupils, on your Our World Awards journey.

Irish Aid
Our World Awards

www.ourworldawards.ie

Good Practice Guidelines

Teaching about Development

The following are good practice guidelines for teaching about development and related issues, and are particularly relevant for teachers engaging, with their pupils, in the Our World Awards:

DO

Create a safe inclusive space for open and respectful engagement, for example by agreeing or reminding pupils about their class contract, facilitating learner voice through participative methodologies, pose open questions, framing issues using a human rights perspective, encouraging meaningful action based on learning and reflection and contributing to a better world for all.

Give a balanced picture. Encourage learning about the culture, arts and heritage of the country being studied.

Focus on the natural beauty, community strength and resilience of the communities being studied while also acknowledging the challenges they face. **Emphasise the agency of people within these communities to drive change**.

Encourage critical thinking about the root causes of poverty, inequality and climate change.

Emphasise how governments all over the world work in partnership with local communities to tackle poverty, hunger and inequality. Give examples of positive interventions which make a real and lasting difference in the lives of children, families and communities.

Highlight how Ireland supports governments around the world to improve the lives of all by engaging in projects which empower people to create better lives for themselves and their families.

Focus attention on local and global links by looking at how action at local or community level directly contributes to addressing broader global issues such as climate change, poverty and inequality. Investigate how actions such as supporting Fairtrade, human rights campaigns and climate action can have a global impact.

Respect the human rights and dignity of all people.

Don't

Present poorer/marginalised communities as powerless and unable to help themselves

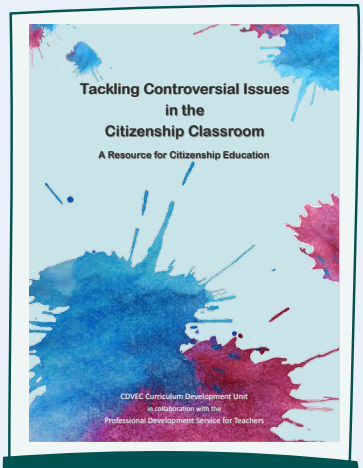
Stereotype people or countries as objects of pity/charity, passive/dependent or advantaged/disadvantaged

Generalise about countries as being drought-stricken, war-torn or poor.

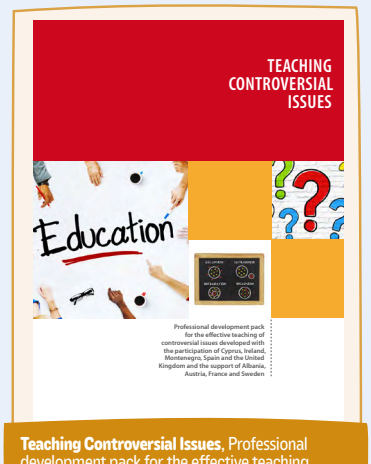
Present global problems as insurmountable and beyond our capacity to solve.

Good Practice Guidelines

Useful Links

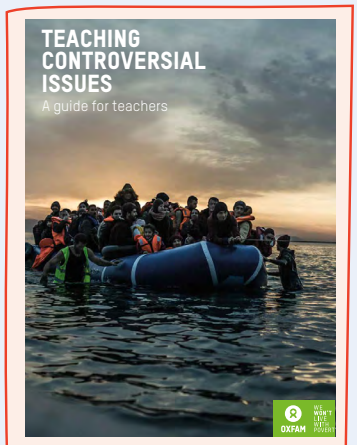


Tackling controversial issues in the Citizenship classroom. A resource for Citizenship Education. CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit. tinyurl.com/yc6suzmw



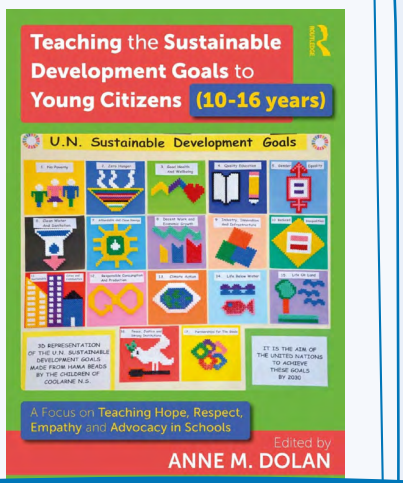
Teaching Controversial Issues, Professional development pack for the effective teaching of controversial issues developed with the participation of Cyprus, Ireland, Montenegro, Spain and the United Kingdom and the support of Albania, Austria, France, and Sweden. Council of Europe. (2016). tinyurl.com/bhdwvus3

Intercultural Education Guidelines for Primary Schools. DES. (2005). tinyurl.com/25cwujnm

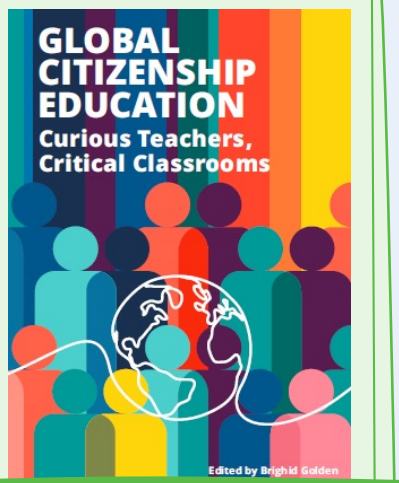


Teaching Controversial Issues, A Guide for Teachers Oxfam UK. (2018). tinyurl.com/mzayc8u9

Useful Publications



Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals to Young Citizens (10-16 years). Edited by Dolan, Anne M. ISBN: 9781032140285 tinyurl.com/3s4sh89j



Global Citizenship Education: Curious Teachers, Critical Classrooms. Edited by Brighid Golden. ISBN: 978-1-7394706-0-9 tinyurl.com/3paa4cpr

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