



DOING DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION FOR PRACTITIONERS AND ORGANISATIONS

These guidelines are for any person, group or organisation 'doing' development education with post-primary schools. The information in these guidelines was gathered from practitioners, school principals and teachers.

CHANGING
ATTITUDES
DEVELOPING SKILLS
GROWING
KNOWLEDGE

WWGS is the national programme of support for Development Education at post-primary level. It is a one-stop shop of funding, resources and guidance for post-primary schools to engage in Development Education.

What is Development Education (DE)

Development Education (DE) is an educational process aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world in which we live. DE seeks to engage people in analysis, reflection and action for local and global citizenship and participation. DE is about supporting people in understanding and acting to transform the social, cultural, political and economic structures which affect their lives at personal, community, national and international levels.

Key components of Development Education:

- **Methodologies** which are learner-centered and participatory
- **Knowledge** about how the world works
- **Skills** of critical thinking, reflection, problem solving, analysis, teamwork
- **Values and attitudes** like solidarity, respect and empowerment
- **Action** to effect change for a more just and equal world

External organisations and facilitators can play an important role in enhancing development education in post-primary schools. The practical steps outlined in this guide were compiled in consultation with DE organisations, facilitators and teachers on how to 'do' DE effectively in schools.



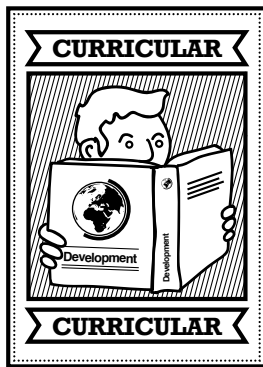
Working with Post Primary Schools

Stage	Tips & Steps
Getting started	Clarify why you want to work with schools.
	What do you have to offer? What educational benefits are there for the school?
	What age group is best suited to your work?
Preparation	What is your plan? Remember to plan your programme around the school year.
	Familiarise yourself with the relevant curricular areas where your programme links in, and outline the potential learning outcomes that your work can help to achieve.
	Prepare a clear message and programme outline to share with schools.
	Be realistic about what you have to offer - don't try to be all things to all schools.
	Prepare all relevant materials for your planned sessions with students and/or teachers, including copies that you can leave in the school.
Making Contact	Send an introduction pack giving an overview of your programme, a needs assessment form and follow up with a phone call.
	Be aware of the school's ethos and profile so you can target schools appropriately.
	Contact school principals or named teachers whenever possible.
	Target specific teachers, year heads or subject areas that have the best fit with your area of DE expertise.
	Be patient, polite and respectful; making initial contact and getting commitment can be difficult.
	Don't give up! Follow up on emails and letters with a phone call or visit, but not to the point where it causes aggravation.

Working Together	Tips & Steps
Planning together	Establish a lead contact and a second contact amongst the teaching staff of the school.
	Reassure principals and teachers that you are there to help and not add to the workload of the staff.
	Give examples/case studies of the work you have done with other schools.
	Outline the aims and learning outcomes of your DE programme for teachers/ students.
	Tailor your approach to the school's needs.
	Plan and consult with teachers so that they are part of the process.
	Agree on a timeline.
	Familiarise yourself with the school plan, facilities, health and safety requirements, child protection and welfare policies and procedures.
	Check with the teacher in advance of workshops/meetings on how many students (or teachers) you will be working with, the IT and classroom set-up, etc.
Working with Principals	Meet the principal and/or deputy principal on your first visit to the school (however briefly) to explain your work and approach.
	Highlight the benefits of DE to the school (skills, values, knowledge, methodologies, actions).
	Offer to do workshop(s) with staff if appropriate.
Working with Teachers	Fit in with what teachers are working on already by linking in with existing activities and programmes.
	Introduce yourself to other teachers even if they are not directly involved in the programme.
	Develop a good relationship with your lead teachers.
	If you are working with a number of schools, find ways of bringing the teachers and/or students together.
	Adjust scope of project to changing circumstances in the school, don't be too rigid with your plan.
Working with Students	Make issues real and less abstract for students.
	Be interesting and interested.
	Use active learning methodologies.
	Find out about the students' links with the world and any youth-based action they are already involved in. Empower students to take ownership of the action component of your programme within their school.
Working with other people or organisations	There may be other DE practitioners and organisations working with the school that have a similar programme to yours or the school might be interested in a theme or methodology that another organisation can provide.
	Find ways to collaborate with other DE practitioners if appropriate - for example, in planning extension activities after your initial workshops.

Working with a school towards a Whole School Approach to DE

Refer to the WWGS Global Passport resource for details on the 7 stamps towards a Whole School Approach - this can provide a framework for schools to reflect on and celebrate the DE in their school.



Facilitate linking themes with subjects, subject departments, learning outcomes.

Give guidance to teachers around their subject area and DE.

Encourage sharing of knowledge across the curriculum subjects.

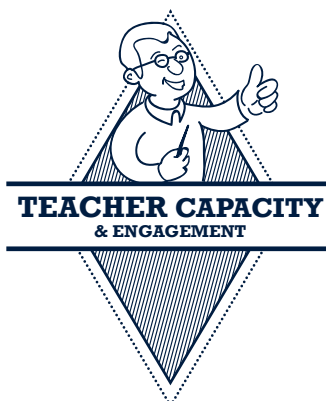


Provide materials for schools for their DE displays and events.

Provide speakers and messages that can be used at assemblies and on the intercom.

Signpost schools to information on specific themed days and weeks.

Assist schools to integrate DE into curriculum weeks such as Maths Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge etc.

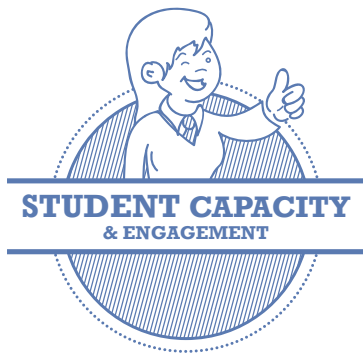


Teacher capacity building is about equipping teachers with the necessary information and tools to impact student knowledge, understanding, skills, values, attitudes and actions. It is also about building teachers' confidence in their ability to deliver DE and consolidate any learning done.

Offer workshops and training to teachers as well as students.

Point teachers in the right direction for relevant resources, web links, organisations and methodologies.

Instill confidence in teachers to 'do' DE - there is often not a right or wrong answer in DE and they need to feel comfortable with that.



Work with existing student groups e.g. student council, Green Schools Committee, Amnesty group.

Encourage peer learning (e.g. if you are working with a TY group, encourage them to pass on/present their learning to the 1st year students).

Encourage student-led projects within your programme so they feel ownership over the project

Include student action planning as part of your programme, helping students to find ways to include other year groups. Facilitate them meeting students from other schools that you are working with to build synergy.



Frame your programme in a way that fits in with the school ethos.

Work with the school if they choose to create (or change an existing) policy related to your work e.g. recycling, procurement etc.



Offer assistance with school planning and evaluation should the school wish to integrate DE.



Facilitate joint learning projects and workshops with other schools you are working with if possible.

Help schools to run community events.

Assist school to find ways of reducing their environmental impact.



“Get to know teachers and visit schools – spot the X-Factor in each school”

-Marie Therese Kilmartin, Principal of Colaiste Bride, Clondalkin

Evaluation & Follow up	Continuously evaluate your programme and ask for feedback.
	Always follow up with teachers, especially if you have provided a one-off input or workshop.
	If you wish to work with more schools, ask teachers to recommend your service.
	Evaluate your programme and process with the teachers, students and the principal and build on this for your next plan.
	The WWGS SAT is a simple tool you can use at the start and end of your programme to measure the impact of your input on participants.

For more information about **WorldWise Global Schools** and the opportunities for organisations working to build the DE capacity of post-primary schools - particularly in applying for our school award, the Global Passport - visit our website **www.worldwiseschools.ie**

For further DE resources and ideas for working with schools, visit www.developmenteducation.ie - a thematic database of DE classroom materials from early childhood upwards.

Contact the WWGS team

The WorldWise Global Schools team is available to provide advice, guidance, training and resources for development education in post-primary schools in Ireland.

WorldWise Global Schools, Kingsbridge House, 17-22 Parkgate Street, Dublin 8
www.worldwiseschools.ie | **Email.** info@worldwiseschools.ie | **Tel.** 01 685 2078



WWGS is being implemented through a consortium comprising Gorta-Self Help Africa, Concern Worldwide and the City of Dublin Education and Training Board Curriculum Development Unit.

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