



WorldWise Global Schools (WWGS)

Case Study of Good Practice GCE Teacher Training Feb 2019

Name of School: Cork Educate Together Secondary School (Cork ETSS)

Name of Teacher: Jerrieann Sullivan

Global Passport Stamp(s): Student Capacity & Engagement

Theme: Climate Action

What they did (who they involved, what was the outcome etc):

Climate Action Network: Jerrieann Sullivan of Cork ETSS provided an overview of the recently developed Climate Action Network, and noted that school management, and the principal specifically (Colm O'Connor), is very supportive of this initiative and of Global Citizenship Education generally in the school. She noted that school management support is a big advantage in trying to promote and integrate GCE into a school.

She spoke about the strike day planned, globally, for the 15th March 2019. The Climate Action Network issued a press release on 30th January 2019 on this upcoming strike, on behalf of nine Educate Together schools, including Cork ETSS. Jerrieann pointed out that it is preferable that students would use their own time to demonstrate (or strike), given that 'any student would do it to get out of class'. It needs to come from students own volition to do so.

She highlighted also the story about Greta Thunberg, a 16 year old student from Sweden, who went out on strike from her school in 2018 (when she

was fifteen). She did so to highlight the lack of action on climate change and Jerriann noted that, as a student with Aspergers, Greta was able to apply black-and-white clarity to the issue, and the urgency of it. The impact of Greta's strike was to inspire tens of thousands of students, globally, to come out and march and protest and demonstrate, across more than 270 cities internationally. Jerriann noted the potential that exists for a real student-led movement on climate action.

Jerriann shared some ideas about how the Climate Action Network could be more widely promoted - such as, for example, developing a website which they currently don't have. She also mentioned creating videos of how they are organizing, so that it could be shared on social media.

She noted how the global day of strike action could resonate with many schools, and particularly faith based schools given that Pope Francis' messaging resonates heavily with this area.

There was some debate around the use of language, and how some schools may prefer not to use the term 'strike' on the 15th but rather a 'day of action', or a further example cited was "*Fridays for Future*" (the strike day will take place on Friday 15th March). Jerriann noted that some schools may have regard to the health and safety implications of a 'strike day' and reputational risk for the school (in so far as there would be any). She noted, however, that the word 'strike' certainly resonates with students and might better harness them into climate action.