

## Make the most of your school council

Council members could vote on an issue they want to take action on and lead the school in making changes. Uniting your students behind a cause.



## Sign a petition

Students could research an issue, like the trade in orange juice, and then sign a petition that supports change. They could also create their own petitions either online or on paper. You can be any age to sign a petition. Websites like [change.org](http://change.org) ([www.change.org](http://www.change.org)) are a good place to search for and create petitions.



## Write to your MP

Anyone can write to their local MP. Students might want to draw their attention to a local or global issue – like the problems with supermarket own brand supply chains – or anything they feel passionately about.

This type of action can be linked to work in literacy and English. Find out who your MP is and how to contact them on this website [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com).

You could also consider encouraging your students to write to their local, or even a national, newspaper. They may even want to hear more about what your students think about a global topic and what they are trying to achieve.



# Action-learning

Have you ever wondered how to help your students become more active global citizens? How to develop their learning beyond the theoretical and the classroom to making a difference in the world? Lots of students raise money for good causes but what else can they do?

This guide contains ideas and tips for you and your students to take informed actions for a better world.

Getting involved in positive actions, from writing to your MP to leading an assembly, can be motivating and fun for young people. Such experiences also have huge educational potential, offering opportunities to develop young people's understanding of global issues and their skills as active, responsible citizens.

*Action-learning gives young people the chance to:*

### Make decisions

Students could decide what kind of action to take or how to publicise an event. Taking responsibility and getting fully involved develops young people's sense that they can bring about change, and their skills in research, planning, problem-solving, reflection, team-work, creativity and communication.

### Think critically about the big questions involved

Why are people in some places poorer than in others? How can we best help people in crisis? What is international development? Good action learning gives young people an opportunity to grapple with these difficult questions, even where there are no clear answers. For support with tackling some of these questions in your classroom visit the Global Dimension website.

### Learn!

There are lots of curriculum links that can be made when your students and you decide to take action. For example, writing letters, proposals and articles can support work in English; looking at budgets, numbers in petitions or money raised can develop maths skills; and finding out about people's lives in other places is key to geography.

### Develop useful skills

Including - connecting with new people both in school, the local community and the wider world; working as a team; problem solving; taking and managing risks; and taking on real responsibility.



## Change your behaviour

Small changes to individual's behaviours can have a big impact. Making changes to what and where you buy, what you do with your waste, how you travel and use resources can all lead to positive impacts for others and the environment.

Do your students know where the food and drinks in your school canteen come from? Can they research who the suppliers are and trace back products to their place or country of origin? If they are unhappy with what they find, they could consider using some of the actions on this poster (letters, petitions, presentations) to persuade the school leadership team and governors to re-think a product (like orange juice) and try to source a local alternative (like apple juice!).



To find out more about our training for teachers, email [schools@think-global.org.uk](mailto:schools@think-global.org.uk)

## Raise awareness in your community

Do students have a way to share their learning, across the school or wider community? Perhaps they could lead an assembly, write an article for a school newspaper, blog or website, make a video, or create a prominent display. For example, after learning about how supermarket supply chains are often less transparent than brand-name supply chains they may want to spread the word so others are more informed too!



## Join a campaign

It doesn't have to be a national or even international campaign (like Supply Change), your students could join a local campaign or even start one in school or the local community. You can search for relevant campaigns on charity websites and on sites like 38 Degrees ([www.38degrees.org.uk](http://www.38degrees.org.uk)).



## Hold an action day

Students could organise an action day, where everyone comes together to raise awareness on an issue and make change. This could be based around a special day already in your school calendar like a sports day, PSHE day or performance. Or you could link it to an international day, for example Human Rights Day.

Or your school could have an online action day which makes full use of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter to get people talking about an issue through hashtags. This can be quite far reaching and get students to think about how to share an idea or message concisely, and how to use social media positively and safely. You may need to set up some ground rules or supervision for students leading an online action day.







SUPPLY CHANGE therefore launched a **Europe-wide petition**, urging European supermarkets to implement social and ecological standards for the supply chains of their store brand production. Throughout the project there will be petitions focussed on a specific theme, find the petitions online at [www.supplychange.org](http://www.supplychange.org).

- Workers are yielding approximately 1.5 tons of oranges for an income equivalent to 10 Euros per day. There is no protection from the sun and the fruits are harvested by leaning simple ladders against the orange trees. Workers climb up and down these unstable ladders carrying up to 30 kg of oranges under great time pressure
- A key strategy of European retailers is to sell store brand products. Rather than buying and selling independent brands, supermarkets increasingly source and sell their own products. In Europe 66% of all orange juice sold is store brands.
- Three out of five glasses of orange juice drunk around the world come from Brazil. However, there are only three firms exporting orange juice to the world: Citrosuco, Cutrale and Luis Dreyfus.
- In 2013 the average European consumer drank 11 litres of orange juice per year, 80% of which is imported from Brazil.

well as the devastating ecological impact of global orange juice production.

### Brazil Research Study on Orange Juice Production

SUPPLY CHANGE published a study in autumn 2015 investigating the entire orange juice supply chain, extending from plantations in Brazil to European supermarkets.

The SUPPLY CHANGE project is a group of organisations, including Think Global from across Europe and the Global South. Its main objective is to encourage supermarket store brands or 'own brands' to become fairer and more sustainable. Global citizens can play an active role in ensuring that supermarkets effectively prevent human rights violations and reduce the environmental damage along the supply chains of their products.

To find out more information about the project and how you can get involved, go to: [www.supplychange.org](http://www.supplychange.org)

## Think Global

Think Global is an education charity helping people to understand global issues. We stand for a more just and sustainable world. We believe that the more people understand global issues – such as supply chains, sustainability, human rights – the more likely we are to take better decisions in their personal and professional lives.

### Training and Resources for Schools

Think Global offers innovative online and in-person training opportunities to help develop an outstanding global learning school. As well as enabling access to resources through the Global Dimension Website [www.globaldimension.org.uk](http://www.globaldimension.org.uk),

Think Global also develops high quality teaching materials.

As set out in our free Global Learning Guidelines (available to download from this link <http://bit.ly/1pX18YV>), we believe that students, teachers and school leaders all have a part to play in developing a global learning school.



A Programme Manager at Think Global, delivering our e-modules.



Learning for a just and sustainable world

### Resources

Think Global runs the Global Dimension Website offering a wide range of teaching resources as well as free membership to our network of over 10,000 teachers.

### E-learning

Think Global specialises in running high quality online training for teachers across the UK in a range of subjects.

Our easily accessible online training course, 'Developing a Global Learning School', is run by qualified teachers and trainers weekly for six weeks. Each module lasts an hour.

The modules enable teachers to reflect upon global learning ideas and resources. Each session suggests techniques and content to try back at school. Participants say that, as well as discovering new resources, they love the collaboration and group discussion with their colleagues taking the course. Over the six weeks they build a good relationship and support each other with specific challenges.

### The topics for the six modules are:

1. Introduction to global learning.
2. International development and poverty – exploring definitions with your students.
3. Thinking critically about global learning resources in English, maths and science.
4. Thinking critically about global learning resources in history and geography.
5. Embedding global learning across the whole school.
6. How does global learning support the Ofsted framework?

To find out how to book onto our training, email [schools@think-global.org.uk](mailto:schools@think-global.org.uk)