"Virtues to Live by"

Before You Begin – An overview for teachers

Responsible Citizenship

"Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God."

(Hebrews 13:14; 16)

Definition

A citizen is a member of a community. You want to play your part within your school, workplace or neighbourhood. You are committed to finding ways to help your community, seeing each person in your community as your neighbour. You put solidarity into action.

Biblical sources:

"Much is required from the person to whom much is given" (Luke12:48)

"There is no permanent city for us here on earth; we are looking for the city which is to come... Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God." (Hebrews 13:14; 16)

"It is God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Why Practice Responsible Citizenship?

It helps me understand who I am and my place in my community and the world. It gives me opportunities to make a positive difference to my community through acts of service and charity.

How do we Practice Responsible Citizenship?

We put our faith into action. We put the corporal works of mercy into action. We challenge injustice and inequality. We try to help others. We care for others and our common home. We contribute to and serve our communities. We appreciate and respect the gifts of creation.

Key Words:

Citizen, community, action, service, justice, equality, neighbour, solidarity, environment, harvest, common good

Signs you are a good citizen:

I show love for my neighbour through my actions

I am part of my community

I make a positive difference

I look for opportunities to serve others

I am proactive

I play my part to look after the environment

Other ideas:

Links to harvest, Catholic social teaching (common good, solidarity, Missio/Mission together, Cafod etc.)

Our common home Laudato Si

Reflection Questions:

How do I make a positive difference to my community?

How do I show love for my neighbour?

How do I serve others?

How do I stand up against injustice and inequality?

Quotes:

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40)

"You are a citizen not by the mere act of voting, but by your vocation and commitment to build a nation of solidarity." (Pope Francis)

"If you do not love your brother who is right before your eyes, you cannot love God whom you do not see." (St. Augustine)

"No problem is solved when we idly wait for God to undertake full responsibility." (Martin Luther King)

"Citizenship is the chance to make a difference to the place where you belong" (Charles Handy)

"I alone cannot change the world but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples" (St Teresa of Calcutta)

"Not all of us can do great things, but we can all do small things with great love" (St Teresa of Calcutta)