

Our Recommendations

1. Educate yourself about what Fairtrade actually means, including the difference between fair trade and Fairtrade, the importance of the social premium and critics perspectives on Fairtrade/ fair trade! There are a lot of misconceptions about!
2. Educate the pupils about the issues through role play so they can identify being in a situation where they are treated unfairly. Give them factual information and tell them stories about the difference fair trade makes to families around the world.
3. Give the pupils space to lead the project – what ideas do they have for raising awareness with other pupils (a school film competition?) staff (a blind tasting of Fairtrade products?) and parents (a fashion show?).
4. If the head teacher doesn't see how important it is, facilitate the pupils to do a presentation to him/her to get the message across.
5. Examine Fairtrade through a Human Rights perspective- 'these farmers are being paid a fair wage so they can live with dignity', instead of a charity perspective- 'these farmers are helped by us every time we buy a Fairtrade product!'
6. When teaching about countries that sell fair trade goods, make sure you also show photos of rich, urban areas as well as poorer rural ones, if not pupils will have a distorted view of the country and think that no-one living in that country has access to clean water, for example.
7. Enable the pupils to critically analyse fair trade for themselves- what are the arguments against fair trade? Do they agree/ disagree? Why? Give the children and youth ownership over their learning and give them the opportunity to justify what they think.
8. Keep it fun and enjoy! Teaching and learning about fair trade is very enjoyable and engaging!

Further guidelines and help

- Leeds:
www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/,
www.leedsdec.org.uk
- Berlin:
www.epiz-berlin.de/
- Prag:
www.fairtrade.cz/, www.fairtrade-asociace.cz/, www.ekumakad.cz/



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 Photos: © LeedsDEC

Project "Awareness for Fairness"

www.be-fair.eu
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The Fairtrade School Award



Becoming a Fairtrade School

There are over 5000 schools across the UK which are registered and working towards Fairtrade School status; a nationally accredited award for primary and secondary schools, administered by the Fairtrade Foundation. Leeds DEC worked with local schools to help them become Fairtrade schools, because this approach enables schools to embed fair trade issues across the school in a sustainable way. A Fairtrade school works towards the 5 goals below:

5 goals to become a Fairtrade School

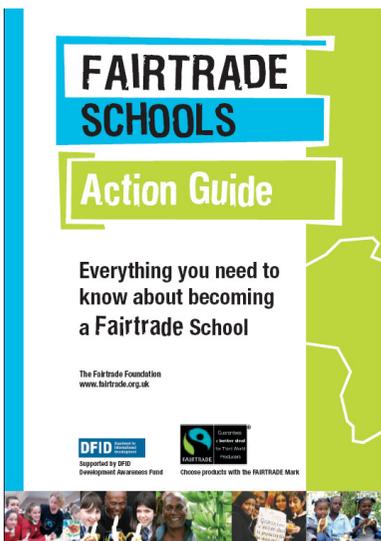
1. Our school has set up a Fairtrade School Steering Group.
2. Our school has written and adopted a whole school Fairtrade Policy.
3. Our school is committed to selling, promoting and using Fairtrade products.
4. Our whole school learns about fair trade issues.
5. Our school promotes and takes action for fair trade both in the school and in the wider community.

"Fairtrade is important because children get to go to school!" Jed, aged 7

"The children came back really fired up"

To help more schools achieve the Award, Leeds DEC organised celebration events for teachers and pupils. The celebration events were an opportunity for schools to discuss where fair trade fits into the curriculum (as part of writing a persuasive letter to a local supermarket, for example), to share good ideas to get the whole school involved (such as running a Fairtrade café), and to develop interesting and practical solutions

to take back to school (such as seeing how many times pupils can kick a Fairtrade football in the air). These events were really fun and worked very well. Headteachers feedback that the children had come back from the events "really fired up about fair trade and ready to start activities in school to raise awareness."



Here's the story of one small school making a big difference - Lindley Infant School

Lindley CE (VA) Infant School is a school with 360 pupils in Huddersfield, Yorkshire. It was the first school in Kirklees (an area of West Yorkshire) to become a Fairtrade School. Staff are committed to engaging the pupils in regular global activities to remind the pupils of their responsibilities for working towards a fairer society. The school linked with Kirklees Council to promote the Fairtrade Schools Award and hosted an event to inspire other local schools to become Fairtrade.

Isobel, Jed, Laibah, Raminder, Hayden, Elizabeth, Betty, Jed, Abdullah, Poppy, Milly, Holly, Ariya, Joseph, Oscar, Holly, and Harrison are all aged 6-7 and are members of the Fairtrade Steering Group that helped their school attain and keep Fairtrade status. They explain what they have done in their own words.

"We had a big breakfast in the hall and had orange juice and toast. We sent a letter home asking our mums to make Fairtrade buns. We made sponge cakes! We had an Easter Egg competition and the prizes were Fairtrade chocolate eggs. They were made of milk chocolate! Nearly everything in this school is Fairtrade! We had a coffee afternoon in school and we had a Fairtrade stall. We collected Fairtrade stickers and packets and we put them on a display outside class 11 and 12. Fairtrade is important because children get to go to school! Fairtrade means they can get a good price for the things they make. That means they can have a house. Our enterprise group runs pocket money stalls at school events. We sell pencils, bracelets, pencil pot holders, skipping ropes and musical instruments and chocolate at Easter. This year we are selling Fairtrade balloons! Year 2 pupils took part in a Fairtrade Cotton Workshop led by Leeds DEC. We followed up this work by designing posters. We all have Fairtrade Cotton bags and we designed a 'supporting families around the world' design to go on it. Parents sell banana smoothies at our school disco. They are yummy!"



"Fairtrade means they can get a good price for the things they make"