What is Citizenship Education?

Citizenship Education

- "Understanding civic duties and responsibilities are essential components of any social studies curriculum".

- Citizenship education is essential for preparing young people for our shared democratic life.

- It's the job of the education system to prepare our young people for the challenges and opportunities of a changing world.

Citizenship Education (Cont…)

- Citizenship education is about enabling people to make their own decisions and to take responsibility for their own lives and their communities.

- Citizenship is more than a subject.

- If taught well and tailored to local needs, its skills and values will enhance democratic life for all of us, both rights and responsibilities, beginning in school and radiating out.

Why teach citizenship?

- Democracies need active, informed and responsible citizens; citizens who are willing and able to take responsibility for themselves and their communities and contribute to the political process.

Education for Democratic Citizenship

- It means education, training, awareness raising, information, practices and activities which aim, by equipping learners with knowledge, skills and understanding and

- Developing their attitudes and behaviour to empower them to exercise and defend their democratic rights and responsibilities in society,

- To value diversity and to play an active part in democratic life, with a view to the promotion and protection of democracy and the rule of law.

Democracies depend upon citizens who…

- Aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens
- Informed about the social and political world
- Concerned about the welfare of others
- Clear in their opinions and arguments
- Capable of having an influence on the world
- Active in their communities
- Responsible in how they act as citizens

How does it benefit young people?

- It helps them to develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges such as bullying and discrimination

- It gives them a voice: in the life of their schools, in their communities and in society at large

How does it benefit young people? (Cont…)

- It enables them to make a positive contribution by developing the expertise and experience needed to claim their rights and understand their responsibilities and preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of adult and working life

Who else does it benefit?

- Citizenship is becoming a cornerstone subject in our education system, and rightly so.

- It is a gateway to a more inclusive (wide-ranging) society.

- Citizenship also brings benefits for schools, other educational organizations and for society at large.

- For schools and other educational organizations, it helps to produce motivated and responsible learners, who relate positively to each other, to staff and to the surrounding community

Who else does it benefit? (Cont…)

- For society it helps to create an active and responsible citizenry, willing to participate in the life of the nation and the wider world and play its part in the democratic process.

What are its essential elements?

Citizenship education involves a wide range of different elements of learning, including:

- Knowledge and understanding about topics such as: laws and rules, the democratic process;
- The media, human rights, diversity, money and the economy, sustainable development and world as a global community;
- and about concepts such as democracy, justice, equality, freedom, authority and the rule of law

What are its essential elements? (Cont…)

- Skills and aptitudes: critical thinking, analyzing information, expressing opinions, taking part in discussions and debates, negotiating, conflict resolution and participating in community action;

- Values and dispositions: respect for justice, democracy and the rule of law, openness, tolerance, courage to defend a point of view and a willingness to: listen to, work with and stand up for others

What are its essential elements? (Cont…)

- The most effective form of learning in citizenship education is:

- **Active**: emphasizes learning by doing;

- **Interactive**: uses discussion and debate;

- **Relevant**: focuses on real-life issues facing young people and society
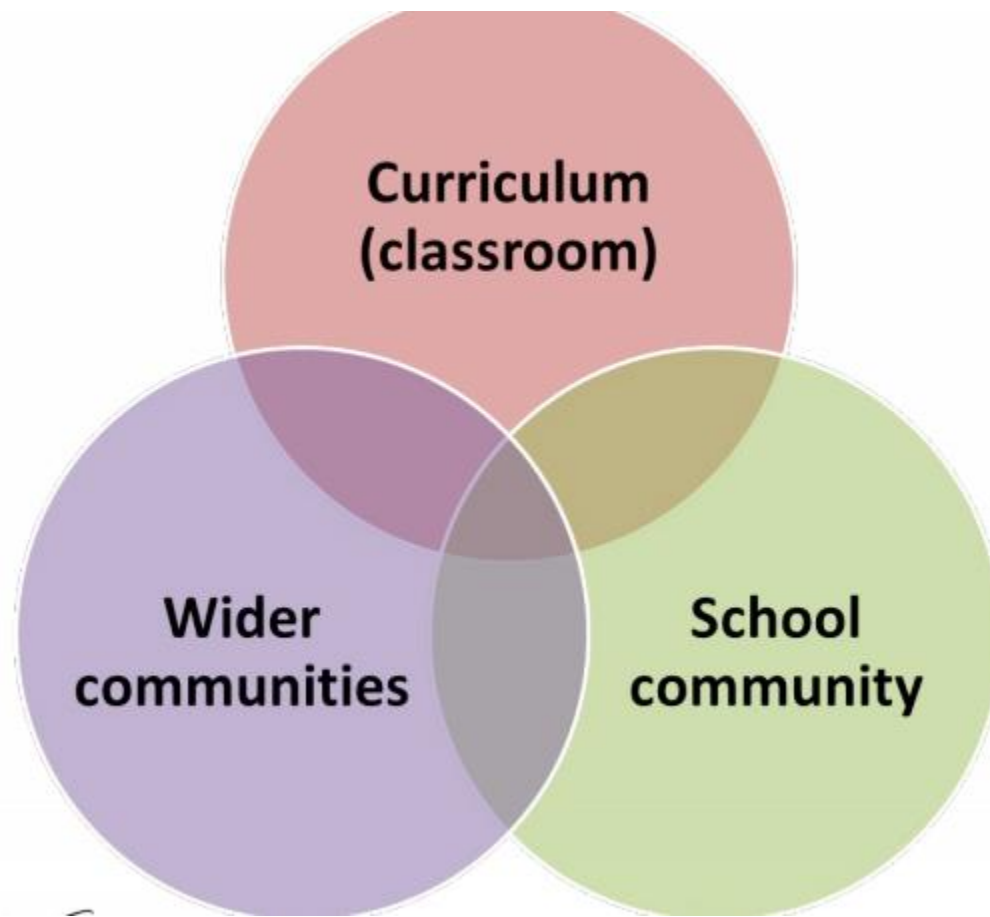
What are its essential elements? (Cont…)

- **Critical**: encourages young people to think for themselves;

- **Collaborative**: employs group work and co-operative learning;

- **Participative**: gives young people a say in their own learning.

How is active citizenship best approached – contexts and methodology?

- Three contexts (Cs) for active citizenship

Why schools and classrooms matter

- Schools and classrooms can be a key source of learning for young people in developing civic competences

- Schools give young people their first experience of public life

- Schools and classrooms are a common denominator in young people's lives

- Schools can be a source of learning for adults as well as young people

School Community

- School community Opportunities for young people to:
- Develop social and personal relationships
- Express their views and opinions
- Take part in decision-making
- Become involved in positions and roles that have responsibilities often termed 'Democratic school culture'

School Community (Cont…)

- Wider communities

- Bringing the community and civil society INTO the school

- Taking the school OUT INTO the community and civil society Wider communities – local to global – power of ICT and social media

- How well - Who benefits from active citizenship and how?

- What are the challenges?

Benefits of Active Citizenship for Schools and Communities

- Improves discipline
- Enhances learning and teamwork
- Reduces violence, conflict and discrimination
- Provides a nicer working environment for everybody in the school
- Improves exam performance
- Secures the future existence of sustainable democracies
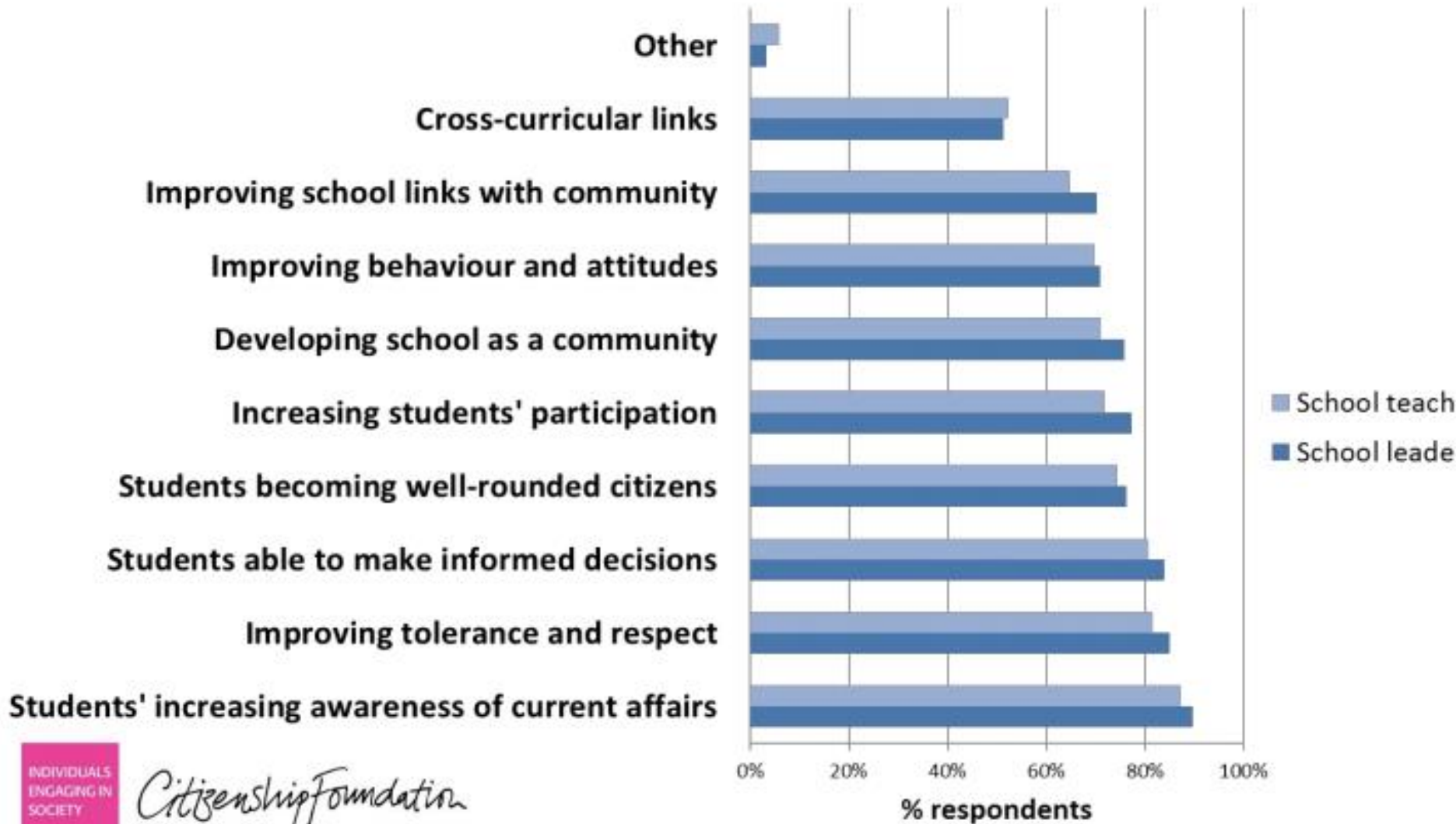
Impact - Civic Knowledge

- Having a high civic knowledge score is a strong predictor of positive pupil outcomes to:

-voting in future elections

-support for democratic values

-gender equality

-equal rights for ethnic minority and immigrant groups

-interest in social and political issues

Benefits and impact of CE

- School leaders and teachers increasingly recognizing benefits of introducing CE

- at school level

- at student level

- at community level

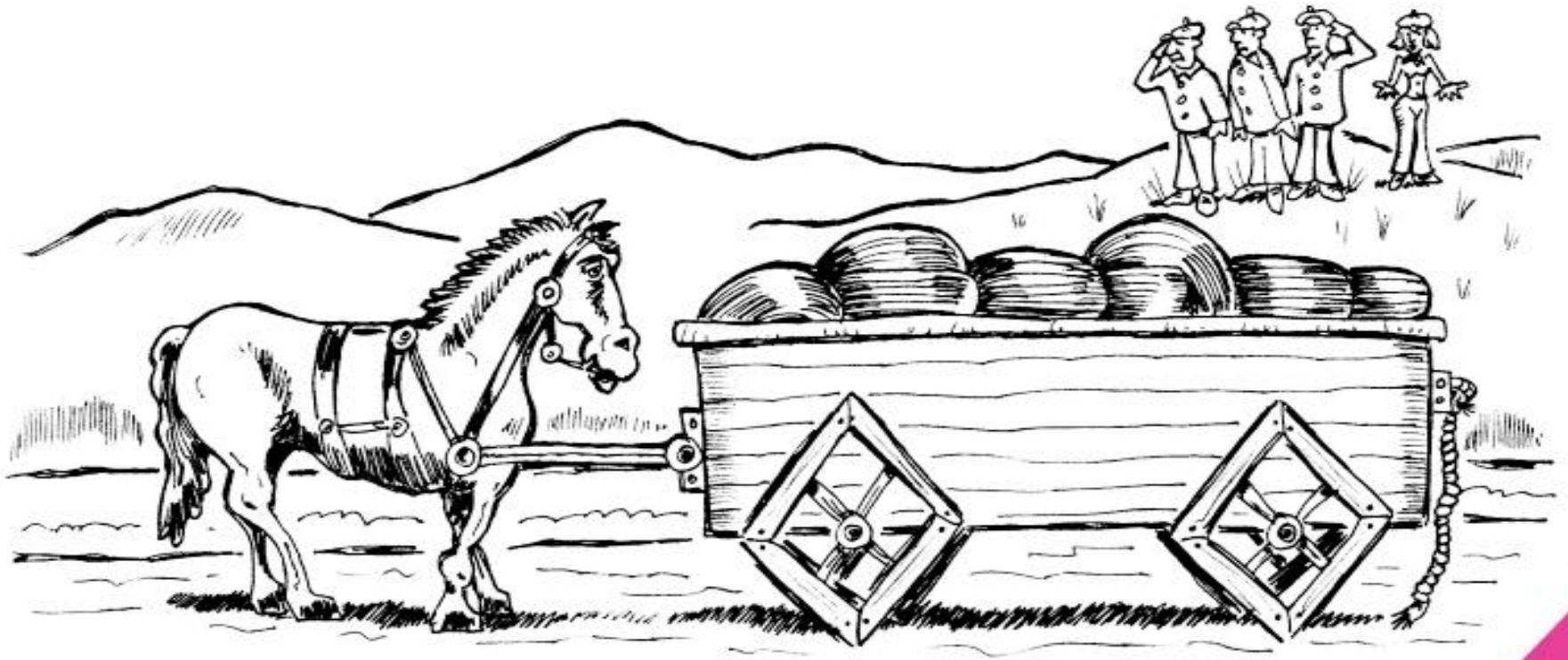- Also aware of impact of CE IN and BEYOND school

Areas CE is having an impact

Categories (top to bottom):
- Other
- Cross-curricular links
- Improving school links with community
- Improving behaviour and attitudes
- Developing school as a community
- Increasing students' participation
- Students becoming well-rounded citizens
- Students able to make informed decisions
- Improving tolerance and respect
- Students' increasing awareness of current affairs

Legend:
- School teach
- School leade

X-axis: % respondents (0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%)

INDIVIDUALS ENGAGING IN SOCIETY
Citizenship Foundation

What are the challenges for active citizenship?

Framework for Action

Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

– adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 May 2010 Policy Tool

- Strategic Support for Decision Makers Competences Framework for DCHRE and intercultural dialogue

Controversial issues in the training of teachers

These sessions are framed within the second stage of the "Human Rights and Democracy in Action" Pilot Projects Scheme, by way of which the European Council summons the Network of Coordinators in order to present cooperation projects between the participating states, the same over the basis of Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights.

The National Centre for Innovation and Educational Research (CNIIE) of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (MECD) will be participating, along with other countries, in one of these projects that has been approved and financed by the European Council, carrying the title of: Teaching of Controversial Issues: development of an efficient training programme for teachers.

To be found among the actions of this project we have experimental application and evaluation of the training programme that has been designed, as well as its distribution among the agents involved in education for democratic citizenship and human rights.

In turn, these are the goals of the sessions; apart from the exchange of knowledge, proposals and experiences among those participating.

The sessions will be organised in two modules.

The first involves exchanging knowledge and experiences among the representatives of the different public and private entities. The second module is organised in the shape of workshops aimed at teachers in levels that are prior to University, managing teams, students in the educational scope and other Education professionals with whom the training programme that has been designed will be applied and evaluated.

TEACHING OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN SCHOOL

#EducarEnDemocracia

We like sharing with others what we do about human rights and democratic citizenship

Passive or active?

Standby Citizens

- Citizens who are disposed to act, knowledgeable, efficacious, competent
- They have positive feelings for politics
- They have made plans for themselves including a future political engagement
- In every aspect, they are closer to the active ones than to the unengaged and the disillusioned
- If they move, the move significantly to the active group and not to any of the other groups
- At the individual level, the reasons for stepping in seem to be a decreased satisfaction with democracy

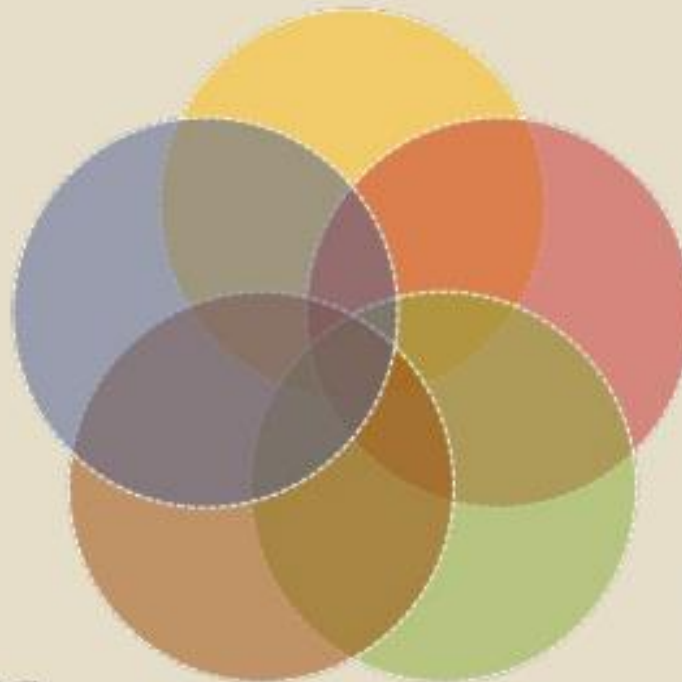Layered contexts (Cs) for citizen engagement and active citizenship

Schools

Media and Internet

Parents

Wider communities

Politicians

Support agencies

Suggested Readings

https://www.slideshare.net/etufan/what-is-the-active-citizenship

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_citizenship