

Thumbs up for Peer Education

"Peer education, for me, is a way of taking learning out of the classroom" Year 9 Peer Educator



Manchester Development Education Project has worked closely with Chorlton High School for the last year and a half, to address issues of transition from primary to secondary school, using the Global Dimension and Peer Education as the vehicle to achieve this.

The project has seen a group of Year 8 and 9 pupils develop as Peer Educators, maturing in their thinking skills, confidence and understanding of global issues. They have gone on to share their knowledge with primary school pupils in Year 6 to help their transition to secondary school in a series of workshops, games days and a pupil forum. Included in these sessions are Q&A times regarding high school life. This enabled primary pupils to meet some of the high school pupils and share experiences.

The project in the Peer Educators' own words

10 students from our high school took part in the project in Year 8 to being Peer Educators. We are all now in Year 9, and attend sessions once a month to prepare for our trips to primary schools. In our sessions we learn about various global issues and also about how to be a good global citizen. We then pass on our knowledge in our sessions with the primary schools through activities which we present.

Being a Peer Educator and global citizen is an important role for me, because I get to voice my opinions and help to participate in changing the world. I also get to share what I have learnt with others, children and my community. Peer

Educators are also people which help you when you could either be worried about High School or different issues around the world. I enjoyed going to the primary schools, and helping to raise awareness about certain issues. I think the thing I enjoyed the most was when we met the younger children and were talking to them about their transition between primary and secondary schools. I was glad I could offer them advice about moving, as I know it would have been very useful had I had that help when I was making the transition. It was very interesting that many of their worries were similar to mine. By talking to them about transition and help their

feelings, makes me feel better in myself, because I like reassuring them [Year 6s] and hearing their worries as I went through them as well.

This project has also made my confidence go higher in class, for example I am putting my hand up more to give my opinion about what I think. I have learnt different things about the world, and I have been able to use this knowledge to help me understand things better. I feel confident about going into primary schools and work on activities with the children. I remember when we were that age and how nervous I felt but now here I am helping younger children.

info@dep.org.uk

Editor's notes This issue focuses on participation and inclusion so we've tried to include stories from a range of people and places. We invited MEEN's trustees to write something and we wanted young people to have their voice heard.

To this end we would like to thank Shadi Osanloo from the DEP and pupils from Chorlton High School, Caroline Downey from MERCi, Cherie Levy from KS3 PRU, Crossacres Centre, Wythenshaw, Fiona Dunk, parent and ESD provider and Josh Steiner from LEAFY.

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Growing Schools



Growing Schools are holding their second national conference on 23rd March, 2009 for all teachers

interested in expanding and improving learning outside the classroom in their school (see the diary on page 7 for more details). There are two new resources available from Growing Schools; a Year Planner available to order free from the Growing Schools website;

and an on-line renewable resources game called The Renewable World. There are also teacher notes, curriculum links and background information linked to the game. www.renewableworld.org.uk/

Manchester's commitment to Sustainable Schools

Councillor Richard Cowell, Executive Member for the Environment, and Councillor Sheila Newman, Executive Member for Children's Services, have decided to set up a Manchester City Council working group for the support and development of Sustainable Schools. The aim of the working group is to

baseline the support the Council is already offering to schools using the DCSF national framework for Sustainable Schools, then to consider how to develop and improve the sustainability of the services that are available.

The working group will link to the Manchester ESD Forum, which

provides a platform for sharing best practice and developing ESD in the voluntary sector. The objective is to build stronger links between the two sectors and to ensure a comprehensive system for schools and educators in the delivery of the Sustainable Schools National Strategy.

Free Trees

Red Rose Forest have kindly donated 145 native trees to 9 schools in Manchester. The trees are being delivered on March 5th. MEEN has organised for Forest Schools to support three of the schools in planting and learning about growing trees. It is hoped this learning will sustain the planting.

If you missed out on this offer, Manchester City Council are giving away 2009 trees to schools this year. To apply, please contact Andrea Marshall on a.marshall@manchester.gov.uk or call 0161 9532760.

The Woodland Trust are giving away free trees to schools as part of their ongoing 'Trees for All' project. There are 2 opportunities per year, with trees sent out to schools in both November and in March. Each school is entitled to one pack of trees at a time. Visit www.treeforall.org.uk/JoinIn/AsASchool/ for more information and to apply.

LEAFY



Leafy – Lightfoot Eco-Adventures for Youth – is a newly established social enterprise providing School Council programmes that consist of adventure activities, conservation work, sustainability education, mindfulness sessions and eco-schools action planning. We support children to develop skills that help them to make a positive impact in their schools, communities and the wider world.

The three day residential programmes will be based at outdoor activity and education centres around the north-west and run for groups of KS2 students from clusters of primary schools around Greater Manchester.

Leafy has received start-up funding to run subsidised pilot programmes in July 2009, ahead of our launch in September. If you would like to find out more please contact Josh Steiner at schools@leafy.org.uk or go to www.leafy.org.uk

ESD in the classroom - training

25th March 2009, 12.30 4.00

Bridge-5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 7HR

Education for Sustainable Development is about developing young people's critical and creative thinking skills, helping them to communicate and evaluate information, and make informed decisions using ethical criteria. This session explores methods of

delivery, including Philosophy for Children (P4C), Peer Learning and young people's involvement in developing their curriculum.

For more information or to book a place at this event, please email Louise Allen at office@meen.org.uk or call 0161 273 8881

Black Gold

— from Colombia to Wythenshaw

At the KS3 Pupil Referral Unit in Wythenshaw we have just achieved our Gold Healthy Schools Award and our Eco Schools Bronze Award. The biggest obstacle we faced in achieving healthy schools gold was to gain an understanding of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) theme. Although we were completely new to ESD with a steep learning curve to follow, our young people have benefited significantly from the process.

As part of our work on ESD we specifically concentrated on inclusion and participation with a particular focus on Local and Global Education. As a school we completely overhauled our timetable and our ethics to fit in local and global issues as much as we could.

Our Habitat For Our Future project saw us mixing, measuring and dividing in our maths timetable. We had a visit from Fine Foods International who encouraged us to write letters to their Colombian coffee growers which has evolved into writing letters to a school in Colombia. Our young people were able to ask the growers direct questions about what they do and how they have benefited from being part of the fair trade market. This Fair Brands project not only employed education on fair trade but added a further social

responsibility dimension through a unique partnership with Save the Children. The project aims to enable more children to go to school who wouldn't otherwise get the opportunity. Through writing to the children in these schools our young people have learned that an education will

create a huge change to these children's lives, helping to lift them and their families out of poverty. It's not only the children in Colombia who have benefited from this project. Some of the pupils at KS3 PRU had never written a letter before, so this project has helped them to learn new skills, as well as forming new friendships with peers from other cultures. It has given them a sense of how lucky they are.

Through PSHE we explored recycling; this included a trip to our local tip which was an excellent hands on learning experience. It had such a profound impact that the students are requesting a weekly trip to be put on the timetable! We had a good look around our school to see what we could recycle and



ended up with 18 boxes of resources that we sent to Zambia along letters to the children asking them about their school.

In Home Economics we have been doing tasting and cooking from around the world. We have been looking at what other cultures have for their breakfast as we realised this is an important part of our diet. We have looked at what makes a healthy breakfast and we are choosing our own breakfast to make from around the world.

We are continuing to look at global issues as part of our curriculum, with the view to taking the skills and values learned into our own lives.

Cherie Levy, ESD Officer, KS3 PRU

Fair Trade Schools

Schools can register for Fairtrade school status by visiting www.fairtrade.org.uk. The website provides support and resources including activity ideas. Once registered you can keep track of all your Fairtrade activities by uploading them to your profile. Becoming a Fairtrade school is a great way to explore issues around the global dimension

which supports Eco-Schools, Healthy Schools and Sustainable Schools. It is also a way to showcase your progress and ideas, and share best practice with other Fairtrade schools.

Don't forget, Fairtrade Fortnight is 23rd February to 8th March.

Inclusion and participation

Doorway 6 of Sustainable Schools

“By 2020 the DCSF is recommending that all schools become models of social inclusion, enabling pupils to participate fully in school life while instilling a long-lasting respect for human rights,

freedoms, cultures and creative expression.”

We hope that these stories of community engagement and active citizenship highlight some of the good practice that is taking place in

Manchester schools and work places. It is often by working with people from different communities and applying our energies to a common cause, that we learn to respect other peoples' views and experiences.

St Margaret's historic food calendar

Food has been a great subject to involve our whole school community. This year we have created a calendar based on the subject of food heritage in Whalley Range. Members of the local community were invited into school to share their knowledge of local history, with small groups of children asking questions. In the afternoon, those children then illustrated the ideas learned in the morning for each monthly calendar page.

‘This project builds on the children's confidence in artwork to enhance other areas of the curriculum. Being part of a smaller group, chosen to work out of the classroom with the invited guest, is

good for their self esteem,’ said Anne Wright, teacher for Years 3 and 4, who could see the benefits for the children.

Furthermore, the calendar has been printed and gone out to the wider community so it has been a really good way for the children to share the lessons they have learned. It also brought the local community into the school. As Alison White, the deputy head, pointed out, ‘The opportunity for children to interview and meet a member of the local community is excellent. The project is enabling a group of children of all abilities to work together on a piece of work inspired by the oral history of Whalley Range.’



The children clearly enjoyed the process: Mehvish said, ‘It was fun and I feel proud of myself and the calendar looks good with the children's drawings.’ The responses have been positive from parents too: ‘Nature, history, culture, looking after the environment, local characters, great drawings, bringing together old and young, informative, thought provoking and funny with it. What a Fabulous project. Congratulations!’ And Mr Lloyd, a local historian, who participated, thanked the school for inviting him to join in.

If you would like to develop your own food calendar project contact Fiona Dunk by email at fbusy@phonecoop.coop





In 2008 Christina Linge joined MEEN for her Youth and Community Work placement. During this time she facilitated a community audit with the School Council at Webster Primary School in Hulme. The audit was designed by the pupils to help them assess their knowledge and understanding of environmental and humanitarian issues: it also revealed the issues they would like to learn more about. The results identified that the pupils wanted to know more about biodiversity; waste and recycling; water; transport; active citizenship; values and consumerism; energy and climate change and food.

To follow up the audit MEEN applied for and received funding from the Community Foundation's Manchester Fund. The aim of the project is to enable the pupils to decide what they want to learn, who they want to help them learn and then for them to share their learning with their community.

MEEN invited local organisations delivering ESD to write proposals for the School Council outlining

how they could help the pupils explore the various topics. In January this information was given to the School Council as a directory: they then discussed and voted on the topics they felt were most important. Next they identified and contacted two organisations, Rite2No and EMERGE, and invited them into the school to deliver taster sessions.

The project runs until July 2009, and during this time the School Council will be responsible for their own budget and for organising their sessions. As well as providing an opportunity to explore an area they feel strongly about, the project empowers the students in allowing them to take the lead in their learning. Both the Inclusion and Participation and Local Well-Being Sustainable Schools doorways are supported through encouraging participation from, and actively including members of the wider school community to engage in learning about environmental issues.

Elvis Is In The Building

Elvis Kusi, a pupil from Northridge High School, has been taking part in a volunteering programme, set up by the school and organised by the sustainable development charity, MERCI.

Over the last few months Elvis, along with other members of his Year 10 group have been coming once a week to Bridge 5 Mill in Ancoats. The programme, as well as enabling the young people to learn about sustainability and to help out at the mill, also addressed the important theme of inclusion and

participation.

Northridge decided that it would also take its special needs Year 10 group out into the community to engage in 'real-life' volunteering projects. Luckily we had a huge amount of jobs to do, ranging through tidying up the mill, designing recycling messages, commenting on the local area, weeding in our garden, to testing out our healthy smoothie recipes.

All of the young people said that they learnt more about the environment, enjoyed their visits

and hope to use some of their new-found knowledge and skills in their new school. MERCI has benefited from engagement with people with a different perspective on sustainability, a band of willing volunteers, and some excellent ideas for improvements to the local area.

If other local schools are interested in holding sessions for their pupils at Bridge 5 Mill please contact Caroline Downey on 0161 273 1736 or email carolined@merci.org.uk.

Resources

New Growing Schools resource – Renewable World Game

The DCSF have developed a new on-line resource as part of their Growing Schools programme. It contains a game exploring the cost of household items in the past, present and future as well as information and lesson plans for teachers, links to the curriculum and information on renewable materials for students.

This free resource is available at www.renewableworld.org.uk

Energy Challenge for Secondary Schools

The Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes are launching the Energy Challenge. The Challenge is aimed at secondary schools to encourage them to adopt a whole school approach to sustainable energy.

They have produced several resources including: Education on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy; Tackling Climate Change; and Take the Energy Challenge and tackle climate change. These are available to download from:

www.se-2.co.uk/energychallenge/

All secondary schools are encouraged to participate and get the message out to the wider community and other schools.

Schools can email energychallenge@se-2.co.uk for information and support. There will also be a helpline in place for February and March 2009 on 08700 622 882.

Launch of new Fair Trade web - cast service for schools

Trading Visions, the educational charity set up by Divine Chocolate and Comic Relief, have launched an on-line video broadcasting service for schools. Pa Pa Paa LIVE! will deliver web-casts from a rural school in Ghana to classrooms across the UK. It aims to increase young people's understanding of development awareness and the actions they can take as consumers and global citizens to make the world a better place.

For £40 a year, schools can tune into regular themed web-casts from a rural Ghanaian school attended by the children of Kuapa Kokoo Fair Trade cocoa co-operative farmers. Schools can post questions for the Kuapa Kids to answer in each web-cast and take part in on-line forum discussions after each web-cast.

Pa Pa Paa LIVE! is supported by comprehensive on-line teaching resources on Fair Trade and chocolate at

www.papapaa.org and a DVD and photo pack. It is most suitable for Key Stages 2 and 3.

For further details, go to: www.papapaa.org/live.

Who Am I? DVD from Sheffield DEC and Sheffield City Council, £30

Made with young people from Sheffield's Somali community, Who Am I? sets out to discover how tradition, culture and history impact on who we are and how we see ourselves.

With the help of their schools, family, friends, artists and others, the presenters put Somali history and culture under the spotlight and ask if the past is relevant to their life in the UK. The film is supported by an interactive disk to help and inspire students from KS2-4 to take on their own journey of cultural enlightenment.

Available from DEP (price does not include P&P). To order, please email info@dep.org.uk.

Peacemakers education pack.

Feed the Minds, £12.99

An innovative DVD including three hard-hitting commercials about stereotyping; a music video featuring Weapons of Mass Destruction by Faithless; peacemakers home and abroad; a film about faith, values and beliefs; a photo exhibition. There is also a photo-images catalogue of peacemakers worldwide and a guide for educators, teachers and group leaders. The pack has been used in primary and secondary school settings, as well as with youth groups and adults.

Available from DEP (price does not include P&P). To order, please email info@dep.org.uk.

Funding Sources

Global School Partnerships: Reciprocal Grants

Grants are awarded to school partnerships with strong global dimension education goals; equity based relationships and sustainable aims. The grants are for young partnerships to enable teachers from each school to visit their partner school and plan joint curricular work with a global dimension.

Next application deadline is May 1st 2009. For more information on how to apply, visit www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools

Adventures Everywhere! - Literacy outside the classroom; a workshop with Gordon MacLellan (Creeping Toad)

Monday 2nd March 2009,
1.30pm – 5.30pm

Longdendale Environmental Education Centre, Glossop
£70 per person

A workshop for primary teaching professionals (teachers, head teachers, teaching support and governors) covering communal poetry, building a storywalk and making laced up books.

To book or for more information, contact Sarah Wilks at sarah.wilks@peakdistrict.gov.uk or 01433 622461
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/losehill

Healthy Schools; Energy Training

19th March 2009

Venue TBC, FREE

This training is available to schools. Through this training you will learn practical activities to do with children around energy.

For more information email Maqbul Rose at maqbul.rose@manchester.nhs.uk

North West Sustainable Schools; Sustainable Communities Event

20th March 2009, 12pm-4pm

Friends Meeting House, central Manchester, FREE

The aim of this event is to share good practice around the links between sustainable schools and sustainable community groups, and how they can best work together.

All sustainable community groups and sustainable schools are welcome to attend and share their experiences of working together.

To book, please contact Louise Allen at louise@dep.org.uk or call 0161 273 8881 for more information.

Growing schools "Get Your Hands Dirty" Conference.

23rd March 2009, 9am – 4.30pm

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
£75 per person

The conference aims to support all

teachers from Early Years through to Secondary who are interested in expanding and improving learning outside the classroom in their schools. There will be a market place, workshops and the day will begin with key note speaker, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners, Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP.

If you would like to register, or for more information, please visit: www.growingschools.org.uk/News/news14.aspx or contact conference@countrysidefoundation.org.uk

ESD in the classroom

25th March 2009, 12.30pm-4pm
Bridge-5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats. FREE

This session explores methods of ESD delivery, including Philosophy for Children (P4C), Peer Learning and young people's involvement in developing their curriculum. It is aimed at anyone who works with young people and is interested in delivering ESD.

To book, please contact Louise Allen at office@meen.org.uk or call 0161 273 8881 for more information.

A Creative Approach to Environmental Education

26th March 2009, 9.30am

YHA Manchester

£110 + VAT for voluntary organisations; £165 + VAT for local authorities, statutory & other non-voluntary organisations.

This event is designed for anyone involved in environmental education, particularly new practitioners. The day will offer ideas and confidence, plus some refreshing new approaches to enhance the work you already do. The activities covered during the day can be adapted for work with any age group on the whole.

For further details, to book a place or to request a full programme of events, please contact: Jacki or Helen at ETN on 0121 359 2113 or Email ETN@btcv.org.uk.

Enabling Effective Youth Participation

31st March 2009, 9.30am – 4.30pm
YHA Manchester

£110 + VAT for voluntary organisations; £165 + VAT for local authorities, statutory & other non-voluntary organisations.

Through this workshop, you will learn how to create participatory space for children and young people to work together, discuss and identify appropriate environmental action. The event is for anyone working in an environmental charity, local authority, faith organisation, or voluntary organisation interested in promoting effective youth participation. For further details, to book a place or to request a full programme of events,

please contact: Jacki or Helen at ETN on 0121 359 2113 or Email ETN@btcv.org.uk.

Healthy Schools; ESD Training

23rd April 2009

Venue TBC. FREE

This training is available to schools. This training will look at how ESD complements Sustainable Schools and Healthy Schools.

For more information email Maqbul Rose at maqbul.rose@manchester.nhs.uk

Motivating Communities to Take Action

21st May 2009, 9.30am – 4.30pm

YHA Manchester

£110 + VAT for voluntary organisations; £165 + VAT for local authorities, statutory & other non-voluntary organisations.

This event will look at identifying and overcoming barriers to attitude and behavioural change, to enable you to develop strategies which will engage and motivate local communities, bringing about changes in behaviour and practical action. It is aimed at those working with local communities to bring about positive environmental change.

For further details, to book a place or to request a full programme of events, please contact: Jacki or Helen at ETN on 0121 359 2113 or Email ETN@btcv.org.uk.

What is Manchester Environmental Education Network?

Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN) is a membership-based organisation aiming "To inspire and motivate learning about sustainability by building a network of people actively committed to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Manchester." The network was established by six partner organisations involved in the project, and currently employs a network coordinator and a Sustainable Schools Project coordinator.

Membership of the network offers:

- * free network directory (pay only for P&P) - while stocks last
- * free termly newsletter
- * support from network coordinator
- * reduced entrance to MEEN events
- * a voice in how MEEN is run and the activities of the network

Project Partners:

Development Education Project (DEP),

Laurel Cottage
c/o MMU 799 Wilmslow Road
Manchester M20 2RR
Tel: 0161 921 8020

Groundwork Manchester, Salford and Trafford,

Timber Wharf,
42-50 Worsley Street
Castlefield
M15 4LD
Tel: 0161 220 1000

Manchester Environmental Resource Centre initiative (MERCi),

Bridge-5 Mill,
22a Beswick Street, Ancoats,
Manchester. M4 7HR
Tel: 0161 273 1736

Manchester Healthy Schools Partnership,

Mauldeth House,
Mauldeth Road West, Chorlton.
Manchester. M21 7RL
Tel: 0161 882 2313

Environmental Campaigns

Manchester City Council

3rd Floor,
Pink Bank Lane,
Belle Vue,
Manchester
M12 5QN
Tel: 0161 953 2760

Mersey Basin Trust,

Bridge-5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street,
Ancoats, Manchester. M4 7HR
Tel: 0161 273 4207
merseybasintrust@hotmail.com
www.merseybasintrust.org.uk

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Membership of Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN)

Please fill in this form and return to the network coordinator at the above address, enclosing a cheque for the relevant amount.

Name School / Organisation Subject (where applicable)

Address

Tel Fax E-mail

Schools / Organisations - Manchester	£8
Individuals - Manchester (waged / unwaged)	£5 / £2
Non-Manchester based membership	£12
Please add P&P for directory	£2

TOTAL

I enclose a cheque payable to 'MEEN' for £_____