

Am I a Global Citizen?

I was at a workshop recently that was run by an organisation called World Wyse. They have given the school some money to help fund activities in what is called Development Education. I went along to find out more. In addition, I learnt a new word "Global Citizenship"

To explain what it mean, have a look at this picture of refugees packed into a boat crossing the Mediterranean Sea. What is your reaction to this picture?

Here is another picture of newspaper articles supporting the view that the reported rise in temperatures across the world is a hoax. What is your reaction to this picture?

Global Citizenship in a nutshell is about thinking about the bigger picture and not just acting out of personal desire and interest.

It may seem that tackling these challenges is too big, or you may think that you do nothing sitting here in the assembly hall. If doubt starts to arise within about your ability to make change happen, please remember the words by Margaret Mead:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

So why help others and be a global citizen?

In addition to making a positive difference in the world, there is also a deeper reason.

Could one be truly happy at the expense of other people's happiness?

What happens when individuals or groups of people seek happiness only for themselves regardless of everyone else?

Tolstoy, a famous Russian writer wrote:

If we live for ourselves alone, we will feel surrounded by enemies and the happiness of other people will be seen as an obstacle to our own happiness.

Live for others and we will feel surrounded by friends and the happiness of each will become our happiness.

Do you believe that looking after others brings freedom and happiness?

Do you believe that looking after only yourself brings misery?

Therefore, the challenge for this week is to ask yourself the question:

Can happiness be found in helping others?

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