



1. Why Do we Need an International Curriculum?

- All pupils across Europe are entitled to an education that equips them for the inter-connected world we live in. International links are increasingly prominent in everyone's life. Every country in Europe is seeing an increase in the number of people who are travelling through, visiting or coming to stay. In many countries migrations occurred many years ago and in some more recently. It is the duty of the education service to promote positive relationships between all the different groups living in the country.

Arguments for an education that promotes internationalism and values diversity:

1. European Citizenship

The future development of European cooperation – economically, culturally and socially - requires future generations to have international understanding and recognise their own European citizenship alongside local national and ethnic loyalties as well as wider responsibilities as a global citizen.

2. Demonstrating The School's Values

The school should show publicly and explicitly that it values and respects cultures and wisdom that come from other countries. This can be alongside pride in our own national traditions and heritage. There is no conflict in celebrating our own as well as others' ways of life.

3. Increasing Pupils' Motivation

International work adds an interesting dimension to school work that can be very motivating for young people. Becoming involved in active links with young people in other countries can be used as a specific activity to engage pupils who are at risk of losing motivation for school.

4. School Improvement

Developing a whole school international dimension can bring staff and pupils together around work that can give all school members a feeling of pride and achievement.

5. Giving Young People Increased Choices In Life

Learning more about other countries will give our young people more choices about how they live their lives in future. They will be more equipped to choose to take opportunities to travel and possibly work in other countries. International projects are the most effective way of helping young people to develop confidence and skill in communicating with people from other cultures.

6. Learning New Ways Of Thinking

Learning foreign languages has been shown to help young people to understand different ways of thinking. International learning through various types of linking will allow young people to have contact with people brought up in different cultures – with different habits, sense of humour and different ways of seeing and tackling life's problems.

7. Education For A Sustainable Future

Major global issues are not contained within national borders. Our future problem solvers must be educated with an international understanding.

8. Surviving In The Globalised Economy

The globalisation of businesses means that more jobs in future will go to people who have an understanding of how people in other countries 'do business'. Each country needs an increasing number of people to have international competencies in order to survive in the globalised economy.

9. Making Our Communities More United

Developing friendship and understanding through linking with young people in other countries will increase our tolerance of difference and encourage better relations between people of different backgrounds who live in this country.

10. Understanding Where My Family Came From

Increasing numbers of our young people have direct family connections to other parts of the world. We need to help them learn about their heritage and put their life experiences into context.

11. Understanding Migration

All pupils now need an understanding of the increase in migration, its causes and its consequences and benefits.

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12. Moving Between Different Cultures Every Day

Increasing numbers of young people in our schools have a daily experience of moving between two or more different cultures. The cultures of school and home can be very dissimilar and the ways of life between different generations even within their own family may be quite marked. An education that actively promotes intercultural learning can help young people understand these apparent contradictions.

13. Combating Xenophobia And Racism

Alongside increasing migrations of peoples across Europe and into Europe, there has been an unacceptable growth in xenophobia and racism – leading in some cases to violence. A well developed education for international understanding is needed in all countries and all communities to combat this dangerous development.