



Make a Difference challenge - Surrey

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What is the Make a Difference challenge?

It is a child-led citizenship project aimed primarily at KS2 that supports pupils in identifying, researching and addressing a cause or concern that they want to do something about by developing an awareness raising campaign, fundraising or taking direct action.

It presents an opportunity for children to take the lead in making a difference to their communities and provides an excellent context for meaningful **SMSC learning, literacy, numeracy** and **personal development**.

The Make a Difference challenge was developed by Young Citizens. Young Citizens is an education charity working in primary and secondary schools to help educate, inspire and motivate the active citizens of tomorrow.

Surrey Youth Focus is a local charity who support projects such as Make a Difference to enable young people to feel more empowered and enable their voice to be heard. We also advocate, represent and support charities and voluntary organisations across Surrey.

How can I find out more about Make a Difference?

- To find out more about the Make a Difference challenge and how the project works <https://www.gogivers.org/teachers/training-cpd/make-a-difference/>
- To discover how schools have benefited from the perspective of teachers and pupils https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_LX-RRbkrY



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- To find out about case studies for schools that have completed Make a Difference challenge <https://www.gogivers.org/kidzone/free-stuff/case-studies/>

How does my school get training to deliver the Make a Difference challenge?

A school can request for up to 3 teachers to attend the next 2.5 hour Make a Difference Challenge introduction training which is delivered by Young Citizens. This provides each school, teachers/ school staff etc, to hear more about the programme, ask questions and learn about its benefits for your pupils (for example with a group of disengaging boys, a group of young carers, a small group of pupil premium through to Yr 5& 6 whole year groups), school and local community.

Contact info@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk to discuss available funding within Surrey or help in understanding the Make a Difference challenge. The usual cost of this training is £160 per school but we have grant funding to deliver this FREE to a number of schools in Surrey.

What year group is the Make a Difference challenge aimed at?

Although the challenge could be delivered to any children within KS2, we would suggest piloting the challenge with children from Yr5 or Yr6.

How many children should take part in the Make a Difference Challenge?

It could be a class, a year group or a key stage although for the first challenge you may wish to consider a smaller group to get started with. One Surrey school utilised the challenge for their young carers group.

One question we have been asked is how you can manage the challenge across a year group with 2 or 3 classes. One suggestion is to choose one cause for the year group and get the young people to research, suggest and vote on sub topics to be involved in. Each child should have the opportunity to feel engaged and empowered within their group to Make a Difference.

How long does the Make a Difference challenge take?

It is entirely up to the teacher as to how much time should be dedicated to the challenge. Young Citizens suggest this could vary between 10-40 hours. Due to the cross-curricular nature of the project, teachers have found that they can blend some of the work into their normal timetable.

To find out more go to www.surreyyouthfocus.org.uk

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Many schools choose to run the main part of the challenge after SATS in the last half of the academic year. However, some time would be required prior to this to plan and identify the social action challenge they would like support.

Who delivers the Make a Difference challenge?

Although this is a child led project, a teacher / teaching assistant etc would oversee the delivery of the challenge to help guide the children during the key project stages. The school would be supported through Young Citizens and Surrey Youth Focus through phone and email support.

If you have any other questions, please contact info@surreyyouthfocus.org.uk