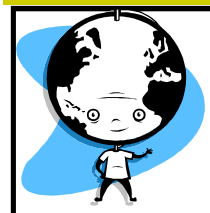
# Compass Directions

*'Compass - Development Education in the Primary School'*, hosted by Comhlámh and funded by Irish Aid, is a not for profit alliance of organisations and individuals, established in 1996, to promote and support opportunities for development education in the primary education system so as to contribute to justice, equality and sustainable development at local and global levels. Compass incorporates the Recently Qualified Teachers (RQT) Global Education Program (Pilot) Project.

Compass Directions is compiled and edited by Sarina Bellissimo. April 2007



## Welcome!

Welcome to the first Compass Directions. This e-mag will be distributed at the start of every school term. Many of you have said that you would like to include development education in your classrooms but you don't have the time to work through all of the information out there and make use of it in your classroom. That's what we aim to do for you in this newsletter - we aim to point you in the right direction.

Compass Directions will be themed. Each edition will look at a different aspect of development education and give you ideas for activities in the classroom, relevant resources, useful websites and who to contact for further information. We want this e-mag to be practical and useful for you in the classroom. As a result we welcome all feedback and any questions you have about the development education topics we will attempt to cover these in the e-mag.

In this edition we look at what ***development education*** is and the ***Millennium Development Goals***. Happy Reading!

*Sarina & Lizzie*

## What is Development Education?

"Development education promotes the development, in children and young people, of attitudes and values such as global solidarity, peace, tolerance, social justice and environmental awareness, and equips them with the knowledge and skills that will empower them to promote these values and bring about change in their own lives and in their communities, both locally and globally." (www.unicef.org)

### How is development education relevant to the Primary School Curriculum?

The aims of development education reflect those of the primary curriculum (see Primary School Curriculum - Introduction, page 34). Development education enriches the curriculum by making the global and justice issues in each subject strand more explicit. It also gives students the opportunity to:

- Critically examine their own values and attitudes
- Appreciate the similarities between people everywhere and value diversity
- Understand the global context of their local lives
- Develop skills that will enable them to combat injustice, prejudice and discrimination.

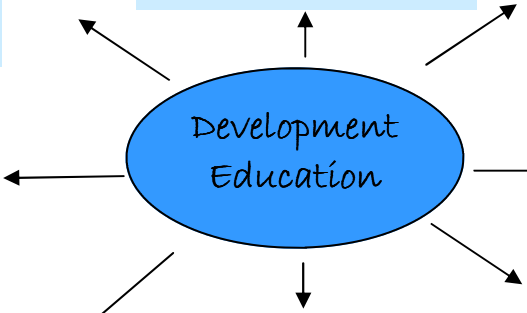
### 8 Key Concepts of Development Education

Development Education is based on eight key concepts which are intrinsic to the Primary Curriculum.

***1. Interdependence***
Understanding how people, places, environments and economies are all inextricably interrelated and that events have repercussions on a global scale.

***2. Global Citizenship***
Gaining the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to become informed, active, responsible global citizens.

***3. Diversity***
Understanding and respecting differences and relating these to our common humanity.




***4. Sustainable Development***
Understanding the need to maintain and improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for future generations.

***5. Social Justice***
Understanding the importance of social justice as an element in sustainable development, the economy and the improved welfare of all people.

***6. Values & Perceptions***
Developing a critical evaluation of images of different regions of the world and an appreciation of the effect these have on people's attitudes and values.

***7. Human Rights***
Knowing about human rights and understanding their breadth, universality, and status as part of Irish and international law.

***8. Conflict Resolution***
Understanding the nature of conflicts, their impact on development and why there is a need for their resolution and promotion of harmony.

*Source: 'Successful Global Awareness in Schools. Developing & consolidating the global dimension. A handbook for teachers' Marjorie Drake, 2006*

# The Millennium Development Goals

At the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, 189 Heads of State and Governments pledged to work together to make a better world for all by 2015. On behalf of their people, they signed the Millennium Declaration which promises to free men, women and children from the dehumanising conditions of extreme poverty and make the right to development a reality for everyone! Each goal has been designed so that it is easy to understand, easy to implement and easy to measure.

Development is about freedom from misery and suffering, from hunger, from illiteracy, from disease, from poor housing and insecurity. The absence of respect, dignity and choice is what poverty is all about.(http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/index.asp).

The team at the DICE (Development and Intercultural Education) project have simplified the Millennium Development Goals for us. You can visit their website www.diceproject.org for more information and teaching materials about the MDGs. The Millennium Development Goals are:

**Goal 1:Poverty and Hunger**
*Target:* Cut in half the number of people who live on less than one US dollar a day and who suffer from hunger.

**Goal 2: Education**
*Target:* Make sure that all children start and finish primary school.

**Goal 3: *Girls***
Be sure that as many girls as boys go to school.

**Goal 4: Infants**
*Target:* Cut back by two-thirds the number of children who die before they reach the age of five.

**Goal 5: Mothers**
*Target:* Cut back by three-quarters the number of women who die when they are having babies.

**Goal 6: Disease**
*Target:* Stop terrible diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, from spreading and make them less common.

**Goal 7: Environment**
*Targets:* Cut in half the number of people who lack clean water, improve the lives of people who live in slums, and promote policies that respect the goods of creation.

**Goal 8: Global Partnership**
*Targets:* Promote greater co-operation among all nations with special concern for fairer deals for poor countries in trade, aid, debt, new technologies, etc.

## Alphabet Soup

Do you come across acronyms and think what does that mean? You are not the only one. To take the confusion out of acronyms below is a list of some frequently used acronyms and what they actually stand for.

| | |
|---|---|
| **MDGs** | Millennium Development Goals |
| **UN** | United Nations |
| **UNESCO** | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation |
| **UNHCR** | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| **UNCRC** | United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| **UDHR** | Universal Declaration of Human Rights |
| **DESD** | Decade of Education for Sustainable Development |
| **DE** | Development Education |
| **ICE** | Intercultural Education |
| **RQT** | Recently Qualified Teacher |
| **NGO** | Non Government Organisation |

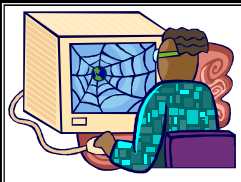
## Try this at school ...

### Give Me Five

**Aim:** To encourage students to explore the contribution they can and do make to their local community and to the wider world.
**Materials:** A4 sheet for each student, markers
**What to do:**
Give each student a piece of A4 paper. Ask them to draw around their hand.
Tell the students that they are going to fill their fingers as follows:
**Thumb**: Stick your thumb up making the gesture for good. Participants should write something good about themselves in the thumb on their drawing.
**Index finger:** Point and wave your index finger at the group as if telling them to stop doing something bad. Students should write something that they want others to stop doing in the index finger of their drawing.
**Middle finger:** Point to your middle finger showing that it is the biggest finger on your hand. Students should write whatever they think is the biggest problem in the world in the middle finger on their drawing.
**Fourth finger:** Point to your fourth finger and tell students that it is the finger on which people would wear their wedding ring. Students should write something they love about their area in the ring finger on their drawing.
**Little finger:** Hold up your little finger. Students should write a small change they are going to make to their lives to make the world a better place in the little finger of their drawing.
Stick the hands on the wall
**Discussion Questions**

- What do the different 'hands' have in common?
- What global problems did the group identify?
- What actions were suggested?
- Are there any similarities between these and the Millennium Development Goals?

*This activity and more can be found in "All Different All Equal Ireland - An Anti-Racist and Intercultural Education Resource for Youth Workers" - National Youth Development Education Program (Published by National Youth Council of Ireland 2006)*



## Detangling the Web

The web has some fantastic information but often we don't know where to start looking. We have taken some of the pain out of the search by compiling a list of useful websites which look at the MDGs and development education in general.

**www.un.org/cyberschoolbus**
This website has activities for the classroom as well as a presentation about the MDGs which can be shown to students (upper primary).

**www.unicef.org/mdg/**
This site is best suited for teachers of upper primary students. There are fact sheets about the MDGs that could be adapted for classroom use. There are also case studies that can be used as examples in the classroom and students can take an online quiz.

**www.diceproject.org**
This Irish site has teaching materials about the MDGs and development education in general.

**www.trocaire.ie/education/kidszone.php**
This site has downloadable development education and MDG related teacher resource packs for all primary year levels. Some of the resources are linked to the primary school curriculum.

**www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet**
This site is primarily intended for teachers in England, Scotland and Wales and their students, however there are downloadable activities about each of the MDGs that teachers in Ireland can use.

**www.un.org/millenniumgoals/**
There are no classroom activities on this site however it is a good site to visit to familiarize yourself with the MDGs.

**www.millenniumcampaign.org**
There are no classroom activities on this site however some of the facts and news stories relating to the MDGs can be used in the classroom.

**http://devdata.worldbank.org/atlas-mdg/**
This site has an online atlas of the MDGs. It allows you to explore key indicators for each of the 8 MDGs; resize countries to reflect comparative values; zoom in on countries and pull up quick tables of supporting indicators.

**www.developmenteducation.ie**
This website is a development and human rights education resource. On the website you will find background papers, teaching materials and ideas, cartoons, photographs, a glossary of key terms etc.

The above is by no means a comprehensive list of what's on the web but it is a great start. If you come across any websites that you think are useful please email them to sarina@comhlamh.org

## Resources

Below are some teaching resources about the MDGS that you may find useful.

**Our World Our Future**
This senior primary resource, published by Irish Aid, links activities to the MDGs. While it has special relevance for Geography and the strand unit of Development and Aid, it is also designed for cross curricular use across most subject areas. To order a free copy email irishaid@dfa.ie

**Our World Children's Media Awards Resource Pack**
This pack contains posters, fact sheets and activity sheets about the MDGs for primary school students of all levels. To order a pack call 021 455 0434 or visit www.ourworldawards.ie to download and print the resources.

**Pathways for Teaching the MDGs**
This resource, developed by DICE, contains a sequence of lesson ideas for teaching about the MDGs including several classroom activities as well as background information for teachers on the goals. You can download this resource at: www.diceproject.org/teachingmaterials.aspx

**Millennium Development Goals Video**
This video, by Trócaire, for senior primary classes, looks at the life of Badada, a 16 year old Ethiopian girl, in the context of the MDGs. It examines the challenges faced by Badada, her family and their semi-nomadic rural community. The video costs €5. To order a copy email: dbyrne@trocaire.ie

**Guide to Development Education Resources in Ireland 2006-2008**
This guide, produced by Irish Aid & Trócaire, contains information about more than 300 resources. Some of the primary resources, particularly those for younger children, are cross-curricular in design. This guide can be downloaded at http://www.irishaid.gov.ie/Uploads/Education%20Resource.pdf or a free hardcopy is available from Irish Aid irishaid@dfa.ie

Irish Aid
Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

Our World
CHILDREN'S MEDIA AWARDS

### Irish Aid's 'Our World' Children's Media Awards

The 'Our World' Children's Media Awards is now in its second year and was created by Irish Aid to increase awareness and understanding among primary school pupils in Ireland of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The awards are open to primary school students in 3rd to 6th classes in Ireland and Years 5 to 7 students in Northern Ireland, as well as students in Special Schools. An education pack about the MDGs (see the above resources section for more information about the pack) is sent to all schools, workshops are also available to schools. Students work in teams to produce a newsletter, comic, video, radio spot, artwork, display or other medium to communicate and present their learning on one or more of the MDGs.

In 2006/07 over 2,000 entries were received from 233 schools. A final public display of entries and a prize giving event took place on 27 February 2007. Prizes were awarded in three categories - print, audio/video and art - separately for 3rd, 4th and 5th/6th classes, including Years 5, 6 and 7 in Northern Ireland and Special Schools.

For information about the 2007-2008 Awards or to register your interest, please call (021) 455 0434 or additional information can be found at http://www.ourworldawards.ie.

## Calling all RQTs ...

***Are you a Recently Qualified Primary School Teacher (RQT)? Are you interested in bringing a global perspective into your classroom and would like support to do so? Would you like to meet other RQTs and share your thoughts and ideas about how to bring a global perspective into your classroom? Are you interested in shaping a global education program for RQTs?***

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions then Comhlámh's Compass Project would like to invite you to be a part of their RQT Focus Group for the Global Education Program (Pilot). The aim of the Focus Group is to find appropriate ways to support you and other RQTs in implementing development education across the primary school curriculum. To register your interest or for further information please contact Sarina Bellissimo on 01 478 3490 or at sarina@comhlamh.org

# Diary Dates

Below are dates that are acknowledged world over and some ideas for action. Feel free to run with one of these ideas or to come up with your own. If you do celebrate one of these days, why don't you send us a pic and a blurb about what you did. Who knows you may even make it into the next e-mag!

### 18 April - World Heritage Day

What makes a country beautiful? Is it big buildings, highways and modern infrastructure? To an extent it is. But what makes it really picturesque are ancient monuments, natural landscapes, sculptures and paintings, great architectural works that have outstanding value from the point of view of history, art, culture and science. This day offers an opportunity to raise awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it, as well as draw attention to its vulnerability.

#### *Activity: Famous Irish Sites*

Put a list of countries on the board and ask students to name the famous cultural site(s) associated with them. For example, Ireland - The Giant's Causeway, India - the Taj Mahal, China - The Great Wall of China, Egypt - the Pyramids. Assign different sites to groups of students and ask them to make a poster of the site including information about this site. Students to present this to the class and then put up in the classroom to make a display. Also, discuss as a class why it is important to keep these sites preserved but why it's OK to knock down other buildings?

*Visit www.friendsofworldheritage.org/resources.htm for further information and downloadable resources.*

### 21 May - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development

Cultural Diversity can be defined as the mosaic of individuals and groups with varying backgrounds, experiences, styles, perceptions, values and beliefs. UNESCO's aim of this day is that it provide us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to "live together" better.

#### *Activity: Art Lesson*

Ask each student to make a posters about themselves. All posters to have the same boxes for students to fill in. Examples can include: Name; I was born in; My cultural background is; My favourite food is; I am interested in; my favourite subject is; my favourite sport is; I would like to know more about; One thing I like about living in Ireland is; One place I would like to visit is; Something I like about my cultural background is; etc. Include a photo of the student on the poster. Once the posters are completed, ask students to give their poster to someone else, who will share it with the class. This can start up a discussion about the diversity in the classroom. The UNESCO slogan is 'We are all different. We are all Unique'. Once the discussion is over these posters can form a class display.

*Resource: 'Watoto - Children from around the world' This large format pack introduces very young children to the wider world. It uses photos, activities and music to encourage early primary students to explore similarities and differences between their lives and the lives of children from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Watoto costs €25 and is available from Trocaire - resources@trocaire.ie*

### 15 May - International Day of Families

This day provides a time to celebrate the bond of togetherness that we share with our near and dear ones and to recognise that there is not one set definition of family - each family is different.

#### *Activity: Family Book*

Ask students to bring in photos of their families and talk about one thing that they like doing together as a family. Students can then write this up and all of the stories and photos can be collated to form a class book about families.
As a class, discuss all the different types of families and attempt to come up with a definition of the term family.

*Resource: '1000 families - The Photo Album of Planet Earth', Uwe Ommer. This book has photos of 1000 families that Ommer took while travelling the world. It was published with the assistance of Unicef and Tashe. Available from book stores.*

### 5 June - World Environment Day

This day is used to stimulate awareness of the environment

#### *Activity: Changes*

Look at the slogan 'What one change will you make for the environment?' Ask students to come up with one positive thing that they will do for the environment over their summer holidays (this should be something achievable). Students then write a letter to themselves listing what change they hope to make over the summer and on going. When the students come back to school in September, their teacher can hand them their letter and as a group, discuss how the 'change' is going. Also, ask the group to come up with a list of things that can be done differently in the classroom/at school to help the environment? For example, recycling, using both sides of a piece of paper, switching off lights when there is no-one in the classroom, etc. As a class, write up a list of the changes and pledge to find ways to do this in the new school year - although it's not too late to start now!

*Visit www.ecounesco.ie for further information, downloadable resources and workshops.*

### 20 June - World Refugee Day

All people have the right to seek refuge. Offering refuge is not about charity it's something we do to play our part in the global community. Often refugees are the brightest and best, people who speak out or stand out within their own country. Did you know Albert Einsten was a refugee?

#### *Activity: Feeling Safe*

A part of feeling safe is being made to feel welcome. As a class discuss how the classroom can be more welcoming to everyone in the classroom as well as visitors such as parents, other teachers, other students, etc.

*Resource: 'Refugees - A resource book for primary schools'. This uses personal stories to explore why people are forced to flee from their homes and become refugees. Aimed at middle - upper primary students, it is €8.35 and is available from Trocaire.*

## Compass

The Compass project is hosted by Comhlamh and is part funded by Irish Aid. It includes participation from various NGOs and individuals committed to promoting development and intercultural education in the primary education system. Compass Project Officers are Lizzie Downes and Sarina Bellissimo (RQT Project). For general or membership enquiries about Compass please contact - lizzie@comhlamh.org For information about the RQT project or feedback about this e-mag please contact - sarina@comhlamh.org or visit our website (see address below).