

CPD whole school activities

CPD activity 4: Sustainable development

Learning intention:

For participants to think about what sustainable development means in relation to their own lifestyles as well as to the school and community.

Activity:

1. Give each (group of participants the **three quotations about sustainable development** (below), and ask them which one they feel best describes sustainable development, and why. (There is no 'right' answer!) Ask them to arrange the statements to show their order of preference. If the group does not agree on the order, arrange the statements to reflect this - perhaps in a line.
2. Invite the participants to walk around the room to look at how other groups have arranged their statements.
3. Then give out to participants the **concepts of sustainable development** (below). Ask participants to discuss how these definitions relate to their earlier views of sustainable development.
4. Give participants a chance to share their thoughts as a whole.
5. Then separate the groups into two halves. Ask half of the groups to design the layout, policies and practices of a school that is a model for the promotion of 'sustainable development'. Ask the other half to do the same but for a school that is against the promotion of sustainable development. The **table** (below) may help with some ideas on ways of promoting healthy sustainable lifestyles at school. The list of ideas is far from exhaustive.
6. Share ideas in a plenary session, possibly including discussion about which model your school most resembles.

CPD whole school activities

Worksheet: Quotations about sustainable development

Quotation 1

"The Earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's needs, but not for everyone's greed."

Mahatma Gandhi

Quotation 2

"The Earth belongs to everyone, not part of it to certain people but all of it to everyone, to be enjoyed and cared for."

Michael Foreman, *Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish* (1999)

Quotation 3

"The interconnectedness of life is both a blessing and a curse; possibilities are boundless and consequences endless. Every value judgement we make ripples into a life somewhere."

Paula Owens, Deputy Head, Eastchurch Primary School, Kent (2001)

CPD whole school activities

Worksheet: Concepts of sustainable development

Seven key concepts of sustainable development (Panel for Education for Sustainable Development, 1999)

1. Interdependence

Understanding how people, the environment and the economy are inextricably linked at all levels from local to global.

2. Citizenship and stewardship

Recognising the importance of taking individual responsibility and action to ensure the world is a better place.

3. Needs and rights of future generations

Understanding our own basic needs and the implications for the needs of future generations of actions taken today.

4. Diversity

Respecting and valuing both human diversity (cultural, social and economic) and biodiversity.

5. Quality of life

Acknowledging that global equity and justice are essential elements of sustainability and that basic needs must be met universally.

6. Sustainable change

Understanding that resources are finite and that this has implications for people's lifestyles and for commerce and industry.

7. Balance

Understanding of uncertainty and of the need for precautions in action.

Cardiff Council's view of sustainable development

"Our collective activities and behaviour contribute to international problems such as global warming, climate change and deforestation. Our local actions, for example in what we buy can have positive and negative consequences for communities living elsewhere in the world where these goods are produced."

Cardiff Council, Local Sustainability Strategy for Cardiff, 2000

CPD whole school activities

Worksheet: Table - promoting healthy sustainable lifestyles at school

How can we help ourselves to be healthy?	Look after our bodies	Avoid harmful substances	Travel to and from school safely	Move around the school safely	Protect ourselves from the sun
How can the school help us?	Encourage us to eat healthy food. Sell fruit and vegetables in a playtime tuck shop	Use bio-degradable non-toxic cleaning fluids	Remind us about road safety	Minimise barriers to moving safely - e.g. step steps, no handrail, uneven paving	Have a shady and quiet playground area
	Teach us to look after our bodies, as well as about the dangers of smoking, HIV/AIDS, excessive drinking etc.	Remind us that medicines can be harmful	Implement a walk-to-school initiative	Ensure that pupils move around the school in a considerate way	
	Ensure that there is a pleasant and safe school environment		Remind us not to go with strangers		

Note: You could adapt this table for use with children. Present blank, or partially completed grids for completion. See what they come up with - and whether and how their ideas could be accommodated.