



# Knightswood Secondary Global Citizenship Newsletter

Welcome to our first KSS Global Citizenship Newsletter!

At Knightswood Secondary School we aspire to create and contribute towards a better society and world for every person to live in. We have been working hard on upholding the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In our Easter Edition -

- Sustainability with West OS
- Sustainable Development Goal 4 - Quality Education
- Period Poverty Initiative
- Youth Scotland LGBT charter award
- Global Goals

## West OS - Sustainable Scotland



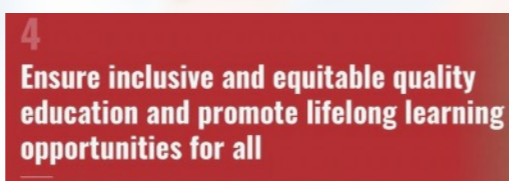
West OS has created several different lessons celebrating 'Sustainable Scotland'. Covering all subject areas, all lessons created are for BGE pupils and can be found through Glow on the West OS tile.

Check this out and engage in exciting lessons such as:

- Modern Studies – Ethical Trading
- Drama – Creating a Character From Solar Energy
- Science – Climate Change and the Carbon Cycle
- Physical Education – Burning Energy Through Physical Activity

## Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education

By: Jude Tait



Education is such an important part of life, it teaches you skills that you can adapt to your future, for this reason goal 4 of the UN sustainable development goals is a quality education.

Now some of you may not know what these goals are or what they are supposed to do, the UN sustainable development goals were set by the UN on the first of January 2016 and there were 17 goals made in total for the UN countries to achieve by 2030. All the goals are important but the world's best plan is to end poverty, reduce inequalities and climate action however the one the one we are looking at is education.

Education is very important and everyone should have a right to it especially children, if all children were educated everyone would have the same opportunities and would have knowledge about the world around and how it works. Unfortunately not all children are being educated in the world, this is where the UN sustainable development goals come in, every country that signed up to goals is trying to boost enrolment in schools by 2030 and it is working. Enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91%, however there is still a lot of work to be done.

Touching on goal 5 gender equality with education is still concerning, 1 in 4 girls in developing countries are not getting an education and 57 million primary-aged children remain out of school. With the lack of education 6 in 10 pupils and adolescents are not achieving a minimum level of proficiency in reading and math and about 50% of the children we have talked about unfortunately live in conflict affected areas.

Since 2000 we have made progress but we need to keep on going so that children globally will have goal 4: a right to education!

## Period Poverty Initiative: Partnership Working With Primary Schools

By: Elisa Camiolo



As the first in the world, Scotland made a law that sanitary products should be made freely available to every girl in the country and this is called the "Period Products Free Provision". This became an official law on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. The free provision of products is spread around Scotland and

many primary schools have taken up this offer, and those are:

- Knightswood Primary
- Bankhead Primary
- Clyde Primary
- Blairdardie Primary
- Scotstoun Primary

In Knightswood Secondary there are teachers that take the responsibility to deliver period products to these schools and all of these primary schools know that they can contact our school at any time and more products would be dropped down so they don't run out. All of this help given to local primary schools by Knightswood Secondary School will have a very positive impact on pupils and staff. All this allows the staff to educate pupils on how to properly use the products and where to easily find them. It will also help pupils to have access to essential products without any feelings of embarrassment.

In a survey done by the Girls' rights charity Plan International UK recorded that nearly half of the girls miss school because of their period, most of which have made up a lie or an alternative excuse, many miss PE lessons because of their period and the vast majority of them made up a lie or an alternative excuse.

This is the reason Knightswood Secondary School puts so much effort into it. This help that is provided will lead to reduction in pupils missing days of school or PE lessons due to their periods. The goal of the school is to make sure that these products are visible, easily accessible and start to talk openly about it with young people. Our goal is to reduce the stigma and embarrassment that has been associated with it for so long.



Save the children





# Knightswood Secondary Global Citizenship Newsletter

## Youth Scotland LGBT Charter Award

By: Ritchie Allan



With the help of our LGBTQIA+ pupil group, Knightswood Secondary is proactively working towards achieving the Youth Scotland LGBT Charter Award. We have been dedicated to collaborating as a team to create a positive environment for LGBT+ pupils and staff. The aim of our pupil group is to help the school become a pioneer in advocating for LGBT inclusivity.

Some of our wonderful teachers who participate in our school's LGBT+ student group produced an anonymous student survey, which resulted in 565 responses across all year groups. The questions focused solely on LGBT+ education issues within school, such as the amount of queerphobic language directed at queer pupils (or from overheard conversations) and the level of LGBT+ education that the students receive in their PSE (Personal and Social Education) classes.

Out of 565 students, 101 checked a box that was something other than heterosexual- bi, lesbian, gay, questioning, queer, etc. Doing the maths, this all adds up to approx. 18% of Knightswood Secondary School pupils (that responded to the survey) identify as part of the LGBT+ spectrum. Comparing that to world survey statistics (estimated 10% of the world's population are on the spectrum), our school has an impressive amount of LGBT+ pupils. This statistic exemplifies how desperate the need for improved LGBT+ education in Knightswood really is.

From the survey, we were able to see that a majority of pupils did report having had lessons on LGBT+ history and the community in general, but in very little quantity- some reported as little as one assembly/lesson a year.

To improve this, our school will be providing our teachers with a brand-new LGBT+ education training opportunity (to begin May 3<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>) that is optional and voluntary. 35 members of staff in their survey were eager to further their knowledge, another 15 had responded 'maybe' they would like more training.

Our LGBT+ student group has also worked on an action plan to further the school's support, each pupil participating had the opportunity to suggest something. Some of these suggestions include:

1. A booklet to be produced for all young trans pupils (or whoever is interested) answering any questions they may have about gender identity and the school's procedures around such matters.
2. A booklet focusing on LGBTQIA+ in general, including the language used and why (explaining pronouns, terms such as "deadname", "non-binary", "genderfluid", etc.) for all teachers and pupils.
3. Could we have an indicator on the register, such as a yellow flag, to remind teachers that the student marked does not go by the name on the register. This is only for cases where the student is not or cannot come out to parents.
4. LGBT+ displays to be put up/updated. We have a few displays up already, such as outside of our Music and PE departments, but some need to be updated and our pupil group is working on that.
5. Signage/posters around the school reminding students of where our LGBT+ group is located and when it is on. (F06 lunchtimes!)
6. An e-mail to all students about what our LGBT+ group does, where it is located, and how to participate.
7. LGBT+ badges for pupils and lanyards for teachers who wish to be active supporters, or to be signposted so students know that person is available for help at any time.
8. During LGBT+ history month, we will attempt to get all staff involved in adding some sort of LGBT education to the curriculum and will distribute lesson plans/booklets to all willing participants.
9. During Purple Friday, all students are to wear purple on the last Friday in February and have the opportunity to donate to LGBT Youth Scotland.
10. Every department should have a visible poster/display in support of LGBT+ pupils.
11. New anti-bullying and Equality policies to be implemented across the school and distributed to staff for approval.

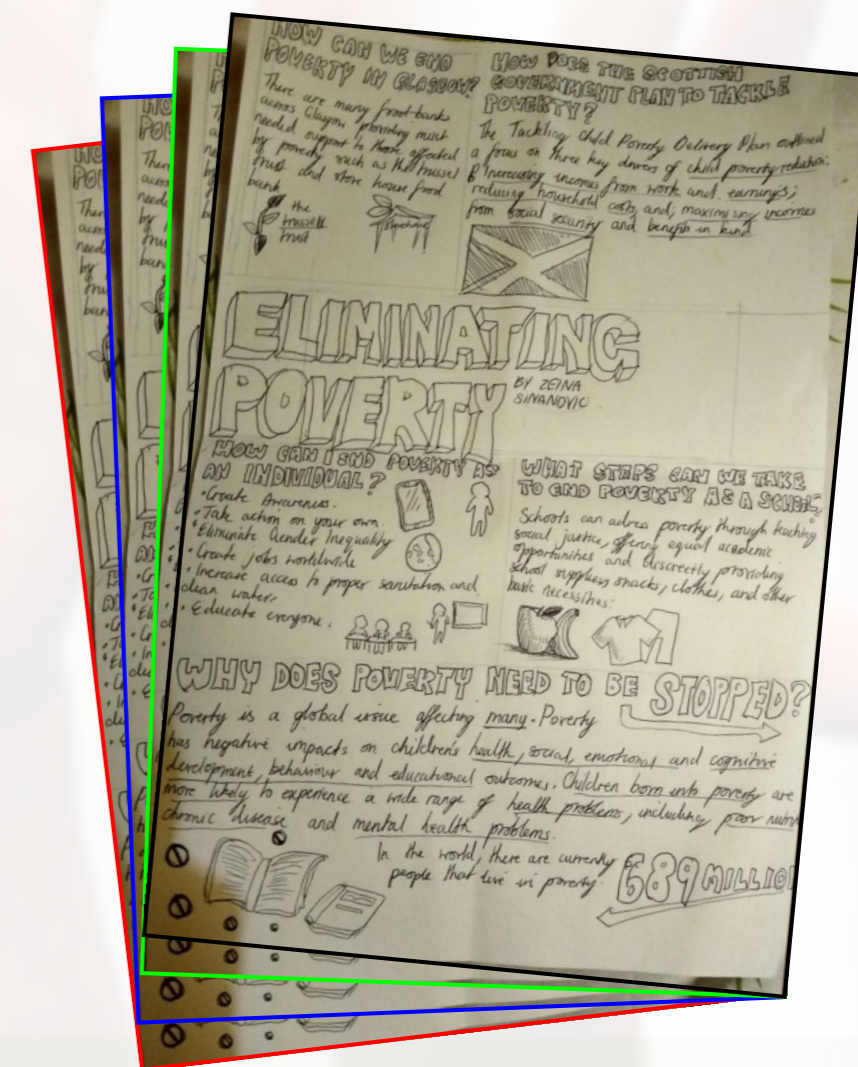
We are trying to make Knightswood an inviting place for all pupils, no matter the sexuality or gender identity. With all of the plans we have in place, we are on the fast track to making this school a better and more accepting place.

- Knightswood Secondary School's LGBT+ Pupil Group



## Global Goal Poster

By: Zeina Sinanovic



Save the children

