

## 'Make a Difference' Discussion and Action Planning Session

### Aims of Session

- Encourage pupils to consider the role of their School Council
- For pupils to consider what they need and want from the school council
- To write suggestions for the school council to act upon
- To create a dialogue between the school council and other pupils
- Involve the pupils in active research on issues that affect them

### Target age range

- This lesson plan is appropriate for any age group, although younger children may need extra support.

### Session resources

- 10 'Make a Difference Posters'
- 30 'Make a Difference' Postcards
- 'Post-It' Notes
- Pens and paper
- Action sheets (available for download from [www.schoolcouncils.org](http://www.schoolcouncils.org))

### Who is Present?

- teacher and/or school council link teacher
- pupils including school council representatives

### Length of session

- Forty minutes

### Session Structure

1. Ask the pupils to walk around the room and look at each poster (these can be on the wall or on desks).
2. Give each pupil 5 'Post-It' sheets and ask them to write a comment about each poster. This could be an observation, or how it relates to their experiences.
3. Ask the class to divide into five groups, around each poster (these should be equal sizes). Give each group some postcards relating to their poster and ask them to read the text on the reverse which gives some background to the issue.
4. Ask each group to look at peoples comments and answer the questions below on a sheet of paper (it may be necessary to establish discussion groundrules first).
  - *What issues are being raised on the poster?*
  - *What comments have people made about the poster?*
  - *What should the school council be doing about this issue?*
5. Hand out the Project Research Sheets, go through the sheet with them and explain what they need to do (they have one week to carry out the research)
6. In their groups they fill in the first 4 sections, the other 2 sections to be completed after the research is carried out the following week.
7. Set aside time the following week for feedback.