

What does it mean to be a Global Citizen

Lesson Plan

The reason for this lesson plan is to help children understand what it means to be a Global Citizen, linking their everyday choices to caring for people, the planet, and a fairer, more sustainable world.

Class Level: Senior Primary (4th–6th Class)

Subjects: SPHE, SESE (Geography/Science), English, Music, Visual Arts

Time: 60–80 minutes

Curriculum Links:

SPHE – Myself and the Wider World

Develop an understanding of rights and responsibilities (human rights, inclusivity, fairness).
Recognise interdependence of people and environments globally.

Geography – Human Environments / Environmental Awareness

Explore how human actions impact environments near and far (waste, climate, energy).
Develop an understanding of global interdependence.

English – Oral Language & Reading

Respond to a poem through discussion, questioning, and creative extension.
Express personal opinions and listen to others respectfully.

Music & Arts

Appreciate cultural diversity through music and art.
Create responses inspired by different world cultures.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, pupils will be able to:

- Explain what global citizenship means and why it matters.
- Analyse themes from the poem (waste, energy, rights, peace, climate, diversity) and link them to real-life issues in Ireland and the wider world.
- Work collaboratively to suggest actions for positive global change.
- Create and present a class "Global Citizenship Charter."
- Write their own creative stanza beginning with "It's about..." to show personal reflection.

Methodologies:

Group work and cooperative learning
Talk and discussion
Text analysis
Creative writing and art integration

Assessment:

Contributions to group discussion and presentations.
Poster/charter content.
Written stanza demonstrating reflection.

Resources:

Poem (printed or projected)
World map/globe
Chart paper and markers
Art materials (poster/collage supplies)
Optional: music clips of world instruments

Differentiation:

Support: Provide sentence starters or key vocabulary.

Extension: Invite students to research one global issue (climate, waste, human rights) for follow-up.

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Lesson Flow

1. Starter (5–10 mins)

Show a world map/globe. Ask: "What do you think it means to be a global citizen?"

Record children's ideas.

2. Share Reading of Poem (10 mins)

Teacher reads aloud or shares the video <https://youtu.be/pagkRdHo5nI>

Children take turns reading sections aloud.

Highlight recurring line: "It's about..." and discuss what it adds.

3. Discussion & Exploration (15 mins)

Break poem into thematic chunks (Waste, Energy, Human Rights, Peace, Climate, Diversity, Music).

Small groups each get one theme.

Prompt questions:

Why does this matter to the world?

How does it connect to Ireland?

What can children do about it?

**Alternative if
time allows:**
Musical Exploration

Play short clips of the instruments mentioned (guitar, drum, piano, koto, flute).

Children discuss how music from different places can come together in harmony—like people.

4. Active Learning Activity (15–20 mins)

Global Citizenship Posters / Collages

Each group makes a mini-poster showing their theme (e.g., "It's about litter & waste" → poster about recycling and clean playgrounds).

Include drawings, key words, and local/global actions.

Display as a "Global Citizenship Gallery" in the classroom.

5. Reflection & Plenary (10–15 mins)

Circle time: Each group shares one action children can take to be global citizens.

Teacher records them on chart → "Our Global Citizenship Charter."

End with everyone repeating the last lines together:

"Global Citizenship is about you and I, And I am happy, to be a Global Citizen."

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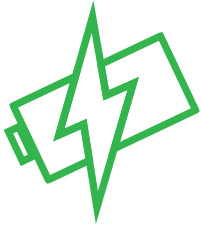
A Global Citizen

I heard them wonder
What does it mean to be a Global Citizen?
And I say to them

It's about litter and waste
Understanding how they affect our global ecosystems
From the East to the West



It's about energy
That conserving each watt is an essential remedy

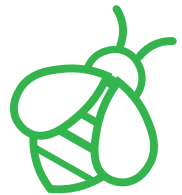


It's about human rights
A world that's fair for all and just

It's about understanding the wider world
Including places our ears had never heard

It's about taking care of our vast resources
And understanding our impacts on faraway places

It's about global peace
While advocating for harmony and total bliss



It's about the climate
How a good balance, makes each living organism delighted.

It's about development for all
It's about inclusivity

It's about the decisions I make
And what they mean, for my futures sake



It's about knowing that extreme poverty can be eliminated
And that whales, lions and tigers need to be safeguarded

It's about diversity
And how we share one language, called humanity

It's about
The fiddle of Ireland
The drums of Africa
The pianos of America
The Koto and pipa of Asia
The flutes of Oceania



Together leading to a beautiful symphony in our shared land

Global citizenship
Is about you and I
and I welcome you to becoming
A Global Citizen



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Curriculum Links Template

Subject	Strand	Strand Unit	Older Classes (5th–6th)
SPHE	Myself and the Wider World	Developing citizenship	Explore rights and responsibilities, fairness, and inclusivity (theme discussions, Global Citizenship Charter).
SPHE	Myself and Others	My friends and other people	Explore respect, empathy, and valuing diversity (discussion & poster actions).
SESE – Geography	Human Environments	People and other lands	Discuss interdependence between Ireland and other countries (waste, energy, climate).
SESE – Geography	Environmental Awareness and Care	Caring for my locality & planet	Understand how local choices impact global ecosystems.
SESE – Science	Environmental Awareness	Science and the environment	Consider renewable energy and human impact on climate change.
English	Oral Language	Developing competence & confidence	Group discussion of poem themes, presenting ideas, debating actions.
English	Reading	Responding to text	Analyse poem for meaning and themes.
English	Writing	Emotional and imaginative writing	Compose own 'It's about...' stanza (creative extension).
Music	Listening and Responding	Exploring sounds	Appreciate global musical diversity and link it to human harmony.
Music	Performing	Song & rhythmic activities	Option to compose short rhythmic chant of their stanzas.
Visual Arts	Drawing / Construction / Fabric & Fibre	Making art to communicate	Create Global Citizenship Charter posters/collage.