



HOW TO BECOME A FAIRTRADE SCHOOL



STEP BY STEP GUIDE FACTSHEET

What is FAIRTRADE?

‘Millions of farmers depend on selling their crops to survive, but when prices drop it can spell disaster. If farmers earn less than it costs to run their farm, they face real hardship.

Fairtrade makes sure that farmers and producer organisations get a fair and stable price for their products to help them support their families and invest in a better future.’ (Source: Fairtrade Foundation)

Fairtrade helps disadvantaged farmers and workers in the developing world to become more sustainable producer organisations. Farmers and producers (they could be in India, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean or Asia) are not only getting a fair price for their products, but also a price that is stable (it won’t change). This means they can support their families and plan for their futures and for things like their children’s education. A Fairtrade price also includes a premium (like an extra bit of money) which farmers and workers spend on social or environmental projects for their communities or organisations, such as health centres or running electricity to houses.

You can identify a Fairtrade product because it carries the FAIRTRADE mark. The mark also represents the environment being respected and protected. Communities have set up reforestation programs and recycling projects using the extra bit of money from the premium.

Fairtrade helps countries build a future within their organisation and in the community. Here is a quote made by a farmer that may help you understand Fairtrade from their point of view;

He says ‘Fairtrade is not a Charity. Fairtrade has definitely helped our community. It has helped the school and has improved our water supplies. We don’t want your money. We simply want you to buy our coffee at a fair price so we can be independent.’

(Workineh Heldaje, Choche (Ethiopia) Farmer, October 2006)

How to become a Fairtrade school

Before pledging for Fairtrade status you must meet 5 goals beforehand. These are;

- Set up a Fairtrade School Steering Group with at least half pupils and which meets at least once a term.

- Write and adopt a Fairtrade Policy which has the support of the board of Governors and is signed by the Head teacher.
- Use and sell Fairtrade products as much as possible.
- Learn about Fairtrade in at least three subjects in two year groups.
- Take action for Fairtrade at least once a term in the school and once a year in the community.

The 5 goals will create evidence that will go into a file that will be used to submit your application to obtain Fair Trade Status in your school.

Step-by-step guide to becoming a Fair Trade School

- Firstly you must register your interest at www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools . Here you will receive all the latest news and views in the e-newsletter each term. You will also have your own school file, which you use to upload your evidence when you complete each of the 5 goals.
- Next set up a steering group to promote Fair Trade around the school. You can hold meetings with the school council, teachers and especially catering staff to show them why the school should get involved in Fair Trade.
- Ask the steering group to carry out an audit and questionnaire about Fair Trade within school. These can be repeated each year to show how much your school have improved. The questionnaire and audit can be found in the Action Guide to help schools become Fair Trade Schools. The Action Guide is on the Fair Trade Foundation website. Or you can enter the website address below to go direct to the Action Plan.
http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2007/A/Action_Guide.pdf
- Start to work towards the five goals as shown above. For help on how to work towards these goals see the guide set out in the Action Plan in section 2.
- Start to gather evidence to go into your file. The evidence is based on the completion of the 5 goals. Draw up an action plan of who will be doing as this is a great way to start gathering your evidence. The checklist in section 3B of the Action Plan helps you to keep a record of what you have done.
- Someone in your school needs to be responsible for keeping copies of the evidence electronically, as this is how you submit your evidence to be able to show you are a Fair Trade School. This could be turned into

an IT project, by involving the steering group in gathering the evidence electronically.

- When you have collected all your evidence together, you can submit it at any time by uploading the information into your school file on the website. You can then present your evidence for assessment.
- When you are successful you will receive your certificate to show you are a Fair Trade School. This can then be displayed in your school.
- Once this is done you can then celebrate after all the hard work you have done!! But remember to renew your certificate every year to show that you are still supporting Fair Trade.

It will take your school around a year or more to gather the evidence to become a Fair Trade School.

So therefore you need to get registered now, to begin your pledge to become a Fair Trade School.



Source: www.fairtrade.org.uk

Resources

Here are a few resources you can find in our Resource Hub at the Liverpool World Centre, about Fair Trade.

- Go Bananas for ages 5 to 11- A photopack which provides basic information about how bananas are grown in St Vincent in the Caribbean and transported across the Atlantic to be sold in the United Kingdom. The children are each given photographs, and they have to show the pattern the bananas go in, in order to be sold. The children can have a discussion as to why they think the photographs should go in that order.

- The Chocolate Game for ages 11+- Enables the pupils to be able to act out the roles of different families in the Cocoa Trade. The pupils are able to see families from different countries and how they are more important to others, and to see if this is fair. The game gives the pupils a real insight into why Fair Trade is important.
- Focus on Fairtrade a primary school resource- An activity pack that explains what Fairtrade is and why it matters to you. The pack involves a number of short stories as to why Fairtrade has helped them. The pack also includes fun easy to do activities, that the school and community can get involved in.
- Fairtrade Action Guide for Schools- This pack contains everything you need to know about Fairtrade, it helps you to find places that sell Fairtrade products and how you can shout about it. The pack is excellent as a beginners guide to Fairtrade.
- Make your school Fairtrade friendly, a co-operative guide for primary schools- The co-op have created a guide that has everything from Fairtrade in your school to how you can embed it into the curriculum by lesson plans and activities. This is a great guide for teachers to help you get up to date with Fairtrade and also to get the school involved too. This pack is a definite must see if you are a beginner at Fairtrade.
- The no-nonsense guide to Fairtrade by David Ransom- This book tells the human story behind the products we consume. It examines the contest between 'free' and 'fair' trade around the world, David Ransom argues that the key question is not whether trade should be regulated or deregulated, but whether it is to be servant or master of the people.

There are many more resources about Fairtrade, so come on down to the Resource Hub at the Liverpool World Centre.

Email sandy@liverpoolworldcentre.org for or telephone on 0151 708 6515 for more information or to arrange a visit!