Active Citizenship and Young People:



The Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study 2006

The Views of Young People

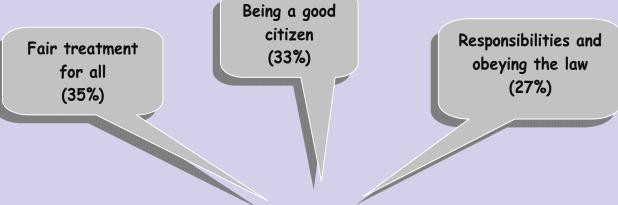
The Citizenship Longitudinal Study is a nine-year long research project which is finding out about young people's views and experiences of citizenship education. Last year over 13,000 Year 9 students (aged 13 to 14 years old) who first filled in a questionnaire when they were in Year 7, gave us their opinions by filling in a questionnaire again.

Learning about citizenship

Young people told us they were more likely to have heard of citizenship by the time they were in Year 9 (2005) than they had been in Year 7 (2003). Twenty four % of students said that they had learned about citizenship 'a lot' in 2005, compared to only 16 % in 2003.

Understanding citizenship

Students told us they were **most likely** to think that citizenship meant learning about the law, and behaving fairly and well. Their top three responses were that citizenship is about:



What does citizenship mean to you?

Young people said they were **least likely** to think that citizenship meant being active and involved. Their bottom two responses were that citizenship is about:

Being active in the community (15%)

Voting, politics and government (10%)

As well as this, around 120 students across the country took part in face-to-face group discussions, and gave their views on citizenship education.

Being active

- Despite the low numbers of students who connected 'citizenship' with active participation in the questionnaires, face-to-face discussions with students highlighted that they did think the following things were important:
 - > Belonging to a community (especially the school community).
 - Belonging to and caring about their local neighbourhoods.
 - Being asked about, and allowed to have a say in, things that affected them (especially in school).
 - Being given opportunities to take part in their schools and communities, and to take responsibility for themselves and other students.

