

Important Update - Fairtrade School Award

Those committed to Fairtrade will be delighted to know that the Fairtrade Schools Award has really captured the imagination of schools across the UK. SCIAF's *Make Your Mark* Action Guide for schools has been flying off our shelves and has become SCIAF's most requested resource of all time!

SCIAF worked in partnership with the Fairtrade Foundation to establish the award in 2005. A few other agencies and groups, including *People and Planet*, had their own Fairtrade schools awards in operation at the time too. All these agencies and groups are now working with the Fairtrade Foundation to create a unified award scheme so we can roll out the Fairtrade Award in a consistent way to schools across the UK.

It's an exciting time for all involved and our aim in the next 3 years is to encourage about 1000 schools to apply for the award. As a result of the changes, a new set of goals, or criteria, have been developed for the Fairtrade Schools Award. **All schools are being asked to work to the new goals [below] from November 2006.**

There's no need to worry, however, if you were just about to apply for the award and would find it difficult to switch to the new goals - we've taken this into account. Just explain that you were working to SCIAF's original goals when you send in your application and your application will be judged against these same goals. If your application doesn't meet some of the new goals then you may be asked to submit more evidence when you come to renew your award status one year down the line. This means you can still get the Fairtrade Schools Award [if you meet the original goals] and will be given a period of a year to meet the standard of the new award.

If you've any questions then please contact SCIAF's Schools Officer on t: 0141 354 5555 or email: imenzies@sciaf.org.uk

Goals for Fairtrade Schools Award

Set up a Fairtrade School Steering Group

The group must:

- be made up of at least 50% pupils/ students with young people being given as much responsibility as possible for planning, decision-making, organising events and correspondence
- meet at least once a term
- have one named staff member and one named pupil as contacts for the duration of the application process
- involve a mixture of students/pupils, teaching staff, catering staff. The group could also involve governors, parents, local Fairtrade reps and others
- be responsible for putting together the Fairtrade Schools policy

Write & adopt a whole schools Fairtrade policy

The policy must:

- be included in the school development plan
- be approved by the Governors/School Board, Pupil Council and all other school bodies for a discussion
- commit to promoting, selling and using as many Fairtrade products as possible
- include a commitment to continue doing more to promote Fairtrade after the school has become a Fairtrade school

Commit to selling, promoting and using Fairtrade products

To achieve this you must:

- Sell in all possible outlets¹
- Provide and use at all events²
- Use in the staff room and common rooms
- Plan to increase products available year on year
- Monitor sales and record progress in terms of the range and value of Fairtrade products sold, on an annual basis
- Plan to increase the FT products available year on year
- Encourage other local outlets to provide Fairtrade products

Ensure the whole school learns about Fairtrade issues, using curriculum based lessons and wider learning activities

This must include

- lessons in at least 3 of curriculum areas
- lessons in at least 2 year groups

Commit to promoting and taking action for Fairtrade in school and in the wider community

This must include at least

- Three whole school activities or initiatives, one per term, including one during Fairtrade Fortnight
- One action to take the issues into the wider community
- Other appropriate learning experiences possibly including school enterprise groups, assemblies, displays, school plays, school newsletter or website etc.

¹ if your group is unable to get FT into the canteen, vending machines etc. because of procurement contracts then you still apply for the award if they can provide evidence to show they have made a serious effort to get FT into canteen etc and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to push for it to happen

² where products are available

What next?

When you have achieved Fairtrade School Status for your school, have a party, write to the newspapers – all that fun stuff. But it doesn't end here! Remember your Fairtrade policy commits you to continue to expand your Fairtrade activities. In order to have your hard earned Fairtrade School status renewed each year, you have to show you are continuing and deepening your activities.

To get renewal, you need to do at least three new things per year:

- one within the school
- one to do with the wider community
- one to do with wider global issues.