

Creative ideas on the Global Goals from St Mary's, Folkestone

As part of its global learning work, St Mary's C of E Primary School, Folkestone, has been engaging its pupils in the Global Goals. The school is part of the Global Learning Programme (GLP), which offers schools the opportunity to investigate the Global Goals and many other development issues. Schools have until the end of 2017 to register at www.glp-e.org.uk for the programme and make use of the funding,* free training, resources, curriculum guidance and local school-led network support available.

St Mary's aims to provide an inclusive outstanding education based on Christian values, such as caring for one another. The school holds hard work, sensible behaviour, high attainment and the development of children as responsible global citizens at the centre of its work. Teachers try to ensure that the pupils receive a stimulating, effective and broad curriculum that develops them as lifelong learners.

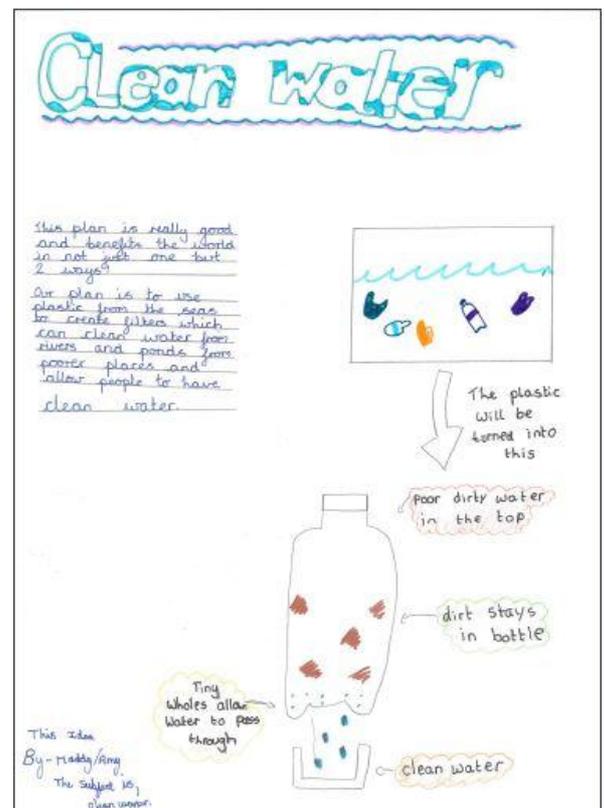
The staff and pupils at St Mary's were inspired by the international adoption of the Global Goals in September 2015, and decided to make the goals a focus for learning in three sessions for Year 6. The aim was to enable the pupils to understand what the goals meant and devise creative ideas for solving some of the key challenges addressed by the goals.

They began by discussing which of the Global Goals they felt were most important; 'quality education', 'clean water', 'climate action', 'gender equality', 'life below water' and 'life on land' were at the top of the list. In groups, they created plans as to how they would tackle these goals, with some very innovative ideas. They were inspired by materials presented in the GLP teacher-created resource 'What state is the world in?'

Download this [teacher-created resource](#) available for free on the GLP-E website below.

To have access to all teacher-created resources and more, **register your school** at www.glp-e.org.uk

The pupils came up with some very creative ideas for resolving some of the global challenges we face. For example, they designed plastic machines or filters to clear plastic from the sea and clean dirty water – an example is shown in the picture opposite.



'The lessons on the Global Goals led to a stronger understanding of world issues and some unexpected solutions from the pupils as to how these could be solved.'

Rebecca Longley, Year 6 Teacher and Literacy Co-ordinator

St Mary's is linked to Seethadevi Girls' School in Kandy, Sri Lanka, and a teacher from that school observed the Year 6 lessons when she visited the school in September. When St Mary's teachers visited the school in Sri Lanka a month later, they taught a 90-minute lesson on the Global Goals with a class of more than 50 Year 10 girls.

Each of them was given a card with one of the goals on, they then had to group into threes and decided what their goal meant and explain them to the class. There was a vote

at the end and the most important goal for these girls was 'quality education' followed closely by 'gender equality'. The teachers at Seethadevi are going to carry out further work with other students on these goals.

St Mary's is an active GLP Expert Centre that has shared its experience in twilight sessions with its GLP Partner Schools, who in turn are now teaching about the Global Goals with their classes.

All pictures © St Mary's C of E Primary School, Folkestone

*The GLP is funded by the UK government. All schools can join the programme but funding is only available to Key Stages 2 and 3 in state schools in England. The GLP in England is managed by a consortium of partners: Pearson (lead), Geographical Association, UCL Institute of Education, Oxfam UK, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), SSAT and Think Global.



Pupils in the link school in Sri Lanka also worked on the Global Goals.