Living Citizenship + Cultural Empathy => Living Global Citizenship

Two new and exciting values that contribute to positive change in intercultural education and global citizenship are Living Citizenship and Cultural Empathy. They emerged from the study over a period of ten years of an international partnership between two schools, one in the UK and one in a black township in South Africa. These are values that we propose should be embedded in a new curriculum for intercultural education. Cultural empathy is about understanding different cultural contexts and celebrating ‘difference’. It is a human, indeed, ‘living’ human quality. Existing educational areas such as citizenship can become ‘global citizenship’ where such a curriculum includes both content and activities that enable Cultural Empathy to take place. Cultural Empathy goes beyond mere study, it is something that needs to be acted upon and experienced by all those engaged within a dynamic curriculum. When combined with our notion of Living Citizenship it helps to define what we mean by Living Global Citizenship as given below:

Living Citizenship + Cultural Empathy => Living Global Citizenship

Living Global Citizenship emphasises the participation by learners in cross community projects which enable a more ‘living’ immersive educational experience that develops cultural-empathy within participants. It supports and problematises international educational partnerships’ enabling participants’ as critically active citizens to transcend the cultural divide. Our educational research, in which we hold ourselves to account for Living Global Citizenship, provides an evidence-based explanation to justify our belief that it can provide a meaningful form of effective citizenship education within any cultural setting.