



Everyone Can Do Something

Aim:

To look at the benefits of volunteering.

Preparation and materials:

Where Volunteering Begins video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wS6ObWC40b0> [accessed 1.07.2020].

Member of the school community who is involved in voluntary work.

Assembly:

Entry music: Let's Work Together, Canned Heat

1. What does 'volunteering' mean? If definitions are unclear, clarify that it is to do something, which normally benefits someone or something else, without payment. Can you think of any examples of volunteering in our school or local community?
2. Watch the 'Where Volunteering Begins' video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wS6ObWC40b0> [accessed 1.07.2020]. What are the different volunteering roles that the people in the video play? What are their different reasons for volunteering? What benefits do the people get from volunteering? What virtues do you think they are developing?
3. If possible, it would be valuable to briefly interview someone in the school community who volunteers about what they do, how they got involved, what they get out of it etc.
4. People can find lots of excuses not to volunteer – they are too busy, too young, they do not have any skills. We are going to hear a short, true story about a teenager who set up a charity to help other young people.
5. Vikki George was diagnosed with an illness when she was seventeen that meant that she couldn't get out for bed for many years. She became lonely and isolated from her friends. She found that one of the things that cheered her up was receiving letters or cards in the post. So, she decided to help other young people and try to put a smile on their faces by setting up a charity called Postpals, which encourages people to send cards and letters to children who are in hospital or very ill. The charity is still active today and Vikki was awarded a 'Points of Light' award by the Prime Minister for her work.
6. Even though she was ill and couldn't get out of bed, Vikki was able to do something small which has made life better for hundreds of sick children in the UK. What virtues did Vikki show? What can we learn from Vikki?

The Character Curriculum

Flourishing for Life



Reflection:

What needs can you see in our school or your local community? Is there anything you can do to help? Remember, doing something small is much better than doing nothing at all.

Challenge:

Investigate the Post Pals website <https://www.postpals.co.uk/> and, as individuals, or a class, choose some children from the website to write letters or cards to.

