Embedding career education in the Victorian Curriculum F–10

Civics and Citizenship, Levels 5 and 6

An existing learning activity linked to a particular learning area or capability in the Victorian Curriculum F–10 can be easily adapted to incorporate career education, enriching students’ career-related learning and skill development.

1. Identify an existing learning activity

**Curriculum area and levels:** Civics and Citizenship, Levels 5 and 6

**Relevant content description:** Investigate how people with shared beliefs and values work together to achieve their goals and plan for action ([VCCCC016](https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/VCCCC016)).

**Existing activity:** Considering how and why people volunteer for groups in their community.

**Summary of adaptation, change, addition:** Planning a proposal for volunteering for the school.

2. Adapt the learning activity to include a career education focus

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| Existing learning activity | Adaptations, changes or extensions that can be made |
| Teacher facilitates a class discussion about how and why people volunteer for groups in their community. Teacher could ask questions such as:   * What is volunteering? * What kinds of organisations and activities do people volunteer for? (Use this to generate a brainstorm of different types of volunteers.) * Why might someone want to volunteer their time? * How might beliefs and values influence the type of volunteer work people do?   Teacher helps students understand that groups of volunteers are often motivated by shared beliefs and values. | Students investigate whether family, carers or family friends have participated in volunteer work. They ask about their reasons for volunteering and the types of volunteer work done. Students could also ask school staff about their volunteering experiences.  Students report back to class on the reasons why people volunteer. They discuss similarities and/or differences in motivations. |
| Students create a drawing of a volunteer from the brainstormed list, including a thought bubble showing why this person might be volunteering. | Students brainstorm things that they could do around the school that would be helpful for the community, such as a rubbish clean-up day. Teacher prompts them to consider what beliefs or values motivate their choices. Answers may include environmental concerns or pride in their community.  Students write a proposed plan of action for their volunteer work.  Students get permission to carry out their plan from relevant school staff members, then carry out their volunteer work as they enact their plans.  Teacher prompts students to reflect on any new skills they learnt while volunteering. Students consider how their beliefs and values affected how they felt about the volunteer work (e.g. did their beliefs and values help keep them motivated?). |

Considerations when adapting the learning activity

* The teacher will need to check that the planned activity is safe and appropriate for their students to undertake.

Benefits for students

Know yourself - self-development:

* Students can learn about why people volunteer, experience volunteer work themselves, and discover why it can be fulfilling. This can help students build self-awareness through the sorts of volunteer experiences they can try to get involved in.
* Volunteering with their class can help students develop their capacity to work with others as they will need to co-operate and work well in a team to carry out their plan.
* Presenting their findings to the class helps students learn how to present themselves and develop self-confidence.

Know your world - career exploration:

* Interviewing people about their volunteering can broaden students’ understanding of the types of volunteer work that are available. This can help students connect their learning with the world of work.

Manger your future – be proactive:

* Students can develop communication skills through interviewing others, and reporting back to the class about why people volunteer.
* Participating in volunteer work around the school will help students develop other employability skills such as planning and organisation skills, and the ability to work with others.