

# LEARN ABOUT THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

## HOME LEARNING ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR AGES 7-14

Now, more than ever, is a time young people need support to help understand their world, reflect on what matters, and think about how they can make a positive contribution. Yet so much learning is taking place online, in their homes, and away from their peers.

We want to help. We've created a selection of themed learning content on the Oxfam Education website for use at home, in the classroom or both! Consider what we all need to thrive, explore what connects us and be inspired to make a difference.

### About this resource

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted us all. In the UK, as in many countries around the world, millions of children have been experiencing what it's like not to go to school. According to UNESCO, [more than 1.5 billion children and young people are or have been affected by school and university closures due to the crisis](#). And it is the world's most marginalised children who are being impacted by school closures the most – including girls, children with disabilities and those living in poverty.

We've put together a collection of activity ideas and useful links to encourage children to think about what it means to learn and the right to education for everyone. Children and their schools are also invited to take action by joining the annual [Send My Friend to School campaign](#) which is calling on the UK Government to keep children learning by investing in education and ensuring education systems are resilient to future shocks.

Online versions of these activities are available on the [Learn about the right to education – Home Learning Activities](#) page on the Oxfam Education website.

Photo: Aurelie Marrier d'Unienville / Oxfam



## Think about what it means to learn (10 min+)

**Learning aim:** To reflect on what education means to me.

- Encourage learners to think about why education is important to them.
  - What does education mean to you?
  - Why is learning important?
  - How and where do you learn?
  - If you have been learning from home, what are you looking forward to the most about going back to school?
- Perhaps learners could write a poem or draw a picture to share their thoughts and ideas.

## Explore similarities and differences (20 min+)

**Learning aim:** To appreciate similarities and differences between my life and the lives of others.

- We are all connected in so many ways. Here is a quick activity to help learners to consider what they have in common with others, at the same time recognising some of the educational inequalities that exist between and within countries.



- Show learners the photograph above and explain that it was taken in a school in northern Ghana. Ask them to make a list of any similarities and differences they spot between this classroom and their own school setting. For example, a similarity could be 'these young people are wearing a school uniform, I wear a uniform at school as well'. A difference might be 'this classroom looks crowded, there is more space in my school'.

- Discuss their ideas. Draw out that there are many similarities in the lives of children all over the world such as going to school, eating and playing with friends. However, things such as where we live and the opportunities we have mean that we meet these needs in different ways.
- Ask learners to suggest other ways in which education and going to school might differ around the world, both within and between countries. Do they think every child is able to go to school and get an education?
- Perhaps learners could look online together for more photos of children learning around the world and try to spot similarities and differences. They might also like to hunt for images from different school settings in the UK, for example a small primary school in a rural area and a large inner city one. Is there anything that your learners spot that they would like to incorporate at their own school? For example, learning outside or having/not having a school uniform.

## Design your ideal school (25 min+)

**Learning aim:** To consider what helps us to learn and what our ideal school would be like.

- The coronavirus emergency has prompted many of us to reflect on what our lives, communities and the world might be like post lockdown and how we can build back better.
- Ask learners to think about what they would like their school and education to be like in the future. Encourage them to think about different aspects such as their classroom, the structure of the school day, what they learn, their relationships with others in the school community and people's well-being. Possible questions to prompt their thinking include:
  - What do you like about school? What don't you like?
  - What do you think education should be for?
  - What do you learn about at school? What would you like to learn more about?
  - What and who helps you to learn?
  - Who would you need to influence to try and make some of your suggestions a reality? For example, this might be the school council, governors or their headteacher.
- Invite learners to use words and pictures to illustrate their ideas. Perhaps they could create a video, presentation or piece of artwork. Help them to share their ideas with others in their class.



Learners at Presentation College in Ireland used the online game Minecraft to recreate their school in a virtual world. The whole school community got involved in thinking about how they could work towards the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the set of global goals and targets aimed at making the world a better place. [Find out more](#)

## Create an issue tree (30 min+)

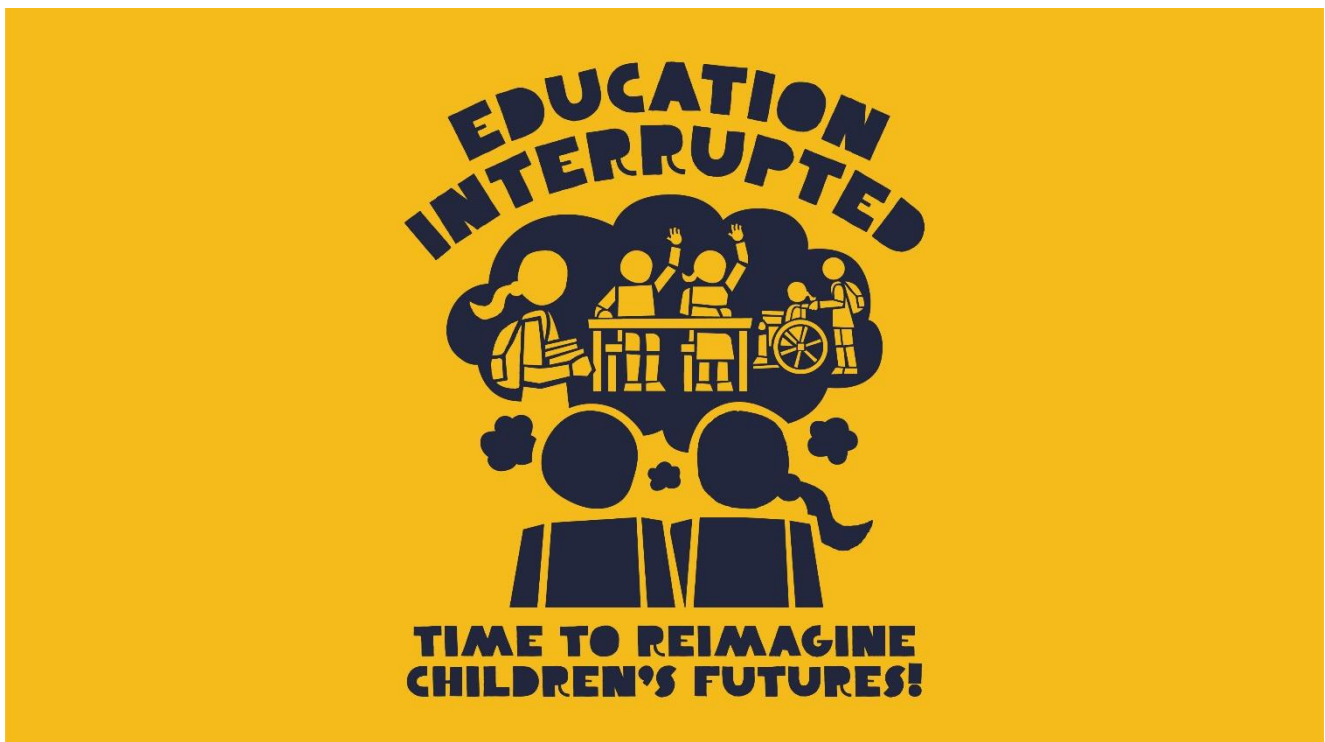
**Learning aim:** To identify barriers that some children and young people face in going to school and potential solutions.

- Suitable for ages 9+, an issue tree is a great way to unpick a complex issue. If possible, learners should be supported to make an issue tree with others in their class (whether remotely or face-to-face) so that they can talk through their ideas together.
- First, ask learners to draw the outline of a tree on a large piece of paper. Explain that it doesn't matter what the tree looks like as long as it has roots, a trunk, branches and some fruit.
- Ask them to write 'education' on the trunk of their tree.
- Learners should then think about the reasons why some children and young people may be unable to go to school at all. These reasons should be written on the roots.
- Learners could watch this [short video from the charity UNICEF](#) to find out what some of these barriers are.
- Now, ask learners to think about what the effects of not being able to go to school at all might be. Why is going to school important to them?
- They should write these possible effects on the branches of their tree.
- Finally, learners should think about potential solutions to this issue. They should write their ideas on the fruit of their tree. For example, one way might be to ask governments to spend more money on education. Maybe this could be used to train more teachers or provide better technology and internet access.
- Explain that there are no right or wrong answers. The aim of this activity is just to learners thinking more about this issue.



## Join the Send My Friend to School campaign

- In 2021 [Send My Friend to School](#) is bringing together teachers, children, and families to call on the UK Government to keep children learning by investing in education and ensuring education systems are resilient to future shocks.
- Education is being interrupted for millions of children around the world.
- It is interrupted because of unprecedented shocks, such as the onset and spread of COVID-19, which has led to children missing school on a global scale never experienced before.
- It is interrupted because of the climate crisis. Flooded schools, heat-exhausted pupils and monsoon ravaged classrooms put children's rights, safety and education under threat around the world
- But 2021 is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform education and ensure all children have a promising future.
- [Download the campaign pack](#) if you would like to find out more and get involved. These activities are suitable for school, blended or home learning.
- You can also follow [Send My Friend to School on Twitter](#) to get updates about the campaign.



## Further learning

- **On the Way to School**

This education resource explores the barriers that still prevent many children from receiving an education. It links to a documentary film, *On the Way to School*, and includes a Game of Life activity to support critical thinking about why all children don't have an equal chance of going to school.

[View the resource](#)

- **You Know Me – who is not in school and why in MENA**

This short video from UNICEF highlights some of the reasons why some children are not in school.

[Watch the video](#)

- **Sustainable Development Goals**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of ambitious and urgent goals and targets aimed at changing our world for the better. SDG 4 is Quality Education. Perhaps learners could find out more about this goal and how it links with the other SDGs. The UNESCO website has some useful facts, information and education resources. Our SDG guide for teachers is another good starting point for engaging children with these global goals.

[Find out about SDG 4](#)

[View the SDG guide](#)