
Key Stage 2

Lesson 4

Learning Objective:

Use drama to explore solutions to the problems that schools in parts of Kenya and Uganda face

National Curriculum links:

Geography (PoS 6b)

English (speaking and listening)

PSHE (2d, 2h, 4b)

Resources:

- Role play case study (pupil, class teacher, parent, community member, head teacher)
- Blank problem cards
- Scissors
- 2 large sheets of paper

Starter:

- Refer back to the table of '**problems at home and school**' that you created as a class in the last lesson. Remind children of the diagrams they created and the effects of these problems that they discussed. Explain that in this lesson they will try to find solutions to some of these problems. They will also try to work out which problems should be prioritised.
 - They will take on the role of a member of the School Management Committee which meets regularly to discuss school improvements. In their role they will decide which problems should take priority and what a solution to them might be.
 - Staying in their role, they will then meet with other members of the committee and act out a meeting in which the problems are discussed and prioritised and solutions considered.

Main Activity:

- Put children into mixed ability groups of about three and give each group a different role within the School Management Committee (pupil, class teacher, parent, community member, head teacher). Give two groups within the class the same role. Provide the groups with the case study relevant to their role and ask them to read it.
 - Give each group a page of blank problem cards and ask them to write on these, the problems which their committee member mentions in their case study.
 - Ask them to cut the cards up and take them along to the committee meeting to act as their prompts during the discussion.

Key Stage 2 Lesson 4

- On the back of each card ask the group to note down any ideas they have for solutions to those problems.
- Set up two school management committee meetings within the class. Ask one group playing each role to join each meeting so that there are representatives of every role in both meetings.
- Suggest that a member of the head teacher's role group chairs the meeting and discuss what that will involve.
- Ask representatives of each role to take turns in presenting their problems to the group. As they present their problems, the groups should place on the table their cards with the problems written on.
- After a group has presented their case look at the problem cards on the table and as a committee decide which problems should be prioritised according to the strength of arguments presented by the group.
 - As the meeting progresses and more problem cards are accumulated from the different groups, the committee will need to move them around in order to prioritise them.
 - It should emerge that similar problems are felt by members of different groups in which case these problem cards can be put together as one. The group may then decide that the problem takes a higher priority because it is felt by more than one group of people.
- Once each group has had a chance to speak look at the problems and as a committee, confirm that their priority is correct.
- Finally, consider each problem in turn and ask for the committee's ideas for solutions. They may need to refer to the notes they made on the back of the problem cards. Record solutions on a large sheet of paper.

Plenary:

- Introduce the children to Build Africa by showing their website:
<http://www.build-africa.org>
 - Explain that Build Africa is a charity that works with schools in rural Kenya and Uganda in order to help them to find solutions to some of their problems.
- Show the three categories of solutions that Build Africa offers to schools:
Solution: Improve school buildings and resources
Solution: Improve teacher training
Solution: Teach children about health and hygiene
- Key Question: Thinking about the solutions you have come up with as a committee, what category of help from Build Africa might they come under? Is the problem something that Build Africa could help a school to solve?

Key Stage 2 Lesson 4

- Finish by explaining that charities like Build Africa can only help schools with these types of solutions if they get support and money from people in the UK. This includes your school. By supporting Build Africa's work you will be helping rural schools to find solutions to many of their problems and help the children have a better education and a better future.
- Don't forget to look back at the questions pupils raised in Lesson 1 comparing statistics from the UK and Kenya or Uganda and in Lesson 2 from studying the photographs of the school. Key Question: Can you answer any of these questions from what you have learnt through the topic? Are there any questions you can't answer?

School Management Committee Member: Member of the Local Community

You are a respected member of the local community who has been asked to represent the community on the school management committee.

You visited the school recently and you were shocked by the lack of classrooms and desks. Some classes were even being held outside under a tree! When the rains come you know these classes will have to be cancelled and the children will miss out on lessons. Of the classrooms you saw, many needed repairs to the roof and walls, you worry that they are unsafe in their current condition. The dusty floors in the classrooms are particularly a problem when it is windy and you know that some children have been off school with coughs as a result of breathing in the dust.

You are also concerned by the lack of teachers in the school. In the classes you saw there were often over 50 pupils which is far too many for any teacher to be able to properly teach. In addition, the teachers have not had much teacher training and some of them only completed secondary school. You are concerned about the quality of teaching they can deliver if they have had little training.

One other improvement you would like to see is a health club that will teach pupils how to stay healthy and look after themselves properly, something that many children do not know at the moment. Part of this could be a feeding programme where the school grows their own food for school dinners so that the children do not have to go hungry.

School Management Committee Member: Head Teacher

You are the head teacher. You are very proud of your school because it has the potential to teach so many children and help them to have a better future. However, you are aware that your school is not able to offer the good quality of education that you would like it to.

Because you have so many pupils but only 4 teachers the class sizes are very big and there are sometimes more than 50 children per class and often up to 100! This makes it impossible for a teacher to teach properly as they can't get round to speak to each child or even speak loud enough for everyone in the class to hear. You are also aware that your teachers, despite being enthusiastic about their job, have not received much teacher training and some of them did not go to university. You worry that consequently they may not be teaching the pupils in the best way.

Another concern you have is that the school does not have any water. This creates a number of problems. Firstly it means you are unable to provide school dinners for the children and so they get hungry and sometimes fall asleep in lessons; secondly there is no water to splash on the dusty classroom floor and the wind blows it up into the pupils which can make them ill. Finally water is necessary for good hygiene after the toilet. You are aware that toilet facilities at school are inadequate anyway because boys and girls have to share and there are only four for the whole school to use!

School Management Committee Member: Class Teacher

You think your job is very important because children need a good education in order to get a good job that will pay them enough to be able to look after their own families properly one day. Your job is very difficult though for a number of reasons and so you worry that you cannot always give your pupils the good quality education that you would like to.

You do not have many classrooms so sometimes classes must be taught outside. The wind, rain and hot sun can make this impossible so lessons often get cancelled. In your classroom there is a large hole in the roof and another large crack in the wall. You are worried that the building is unstable and may not be safe for much longer.

When all your pupils are at school there are more than 80 of them in your classroom. This makes your job very difficult, there are not enough resources to go round and children must share seats. It must be difficult for all the children in the room to hear what you are saying but the only type of lesson you can do with so many children is one where you stand at the front of the class and speak. You would love to have training so that you know a better way to teach so many children. Training would also give you the knowledge you need to teach, you struggle sometimes because you only just completed secondary education yourself.

In order to teach at this school you have to live away from your family. You know this puts some teachers off getting a job here. If the school could offer accommodation to teachers you are sure it would encourage some better teachers to come here.

School Management Committee Member: Parents of School Children

You work very hard to pay for the uniforms and books so that your children can go to school, but you are not sure they always get a very good quality education there. You really want your children to have a better education than you did so that they can get a job which will earn them more money than you have. This should mean that their life will be easier than yours has been.

Your daughter has missed a lot of school this term because she had a chest infection and cough which you believe was caused by the dusty floor in her classroom. If the school had a water supply then this problem could be reduced as water could be splashed on the dry dusty earth. You are also concerned because you know that although your daughter likes going to school she hates the lack of good toilet facilities there. She especially doesn't like having to share toilets with the boys. You think that the school should provide more toilets and do more to teach children life skills about hygiene and keeping healthy.

Without a water supply the school cannot start a feeding programme and your children will continue to go hungry during the school day. You can't afford to send a packed lunch for them but you are aware that they are not currently eating very healthily. You would really like the school to be able to offer a dinner for the children.

Another concern you have is the safety of the classrooms. You have seen and heard about the holes in the roof and wall and you are worried that one day the roof may collapse and hurt some of the children.

School Management Committee Member: School Children

You feel very lucky to have the opportunity to go to school because you know that getting a good education will make it much easier for you to get a good job one day. You would like a good job so that you will not be as poor as your parents are. However you are concerned because although you can get to school, the education you receive there is not always very good.

Your biggest concern is the classrooms because each room has its own problem. You are either taught outside under a tree, which is ok until it rains and then the lesson is cancelled; or you are in the classroom with a thatched roof but no walls, which is very distracting in the wind and rain; or you are in a mud walled room where there is a large crack in the wall and a hole in the tin roof, which you are worried may collapse one day soon. No classroom is very easy to learn in as each comes with its own distractions. It is also very difficult to learn because there are so many pupils in each class; you are either cramped together on the floor or forced to share a chair with a few other pupils. It can be difficult to hear what your teacher is saying with the noise of so many other pupils together with the wind and rain.

Sometimes the lessons are not as good as you hoped because you have to share a textbook with so many other pupils and you can't see it. If you don't understand something the teacher cannot explain it to you any other way because they have not had much teacher training. Besides, there are too many pupils in the class for the teacher to be able to speak to individual children anyway. You would really like to be taught life skills at school so you know how to keep yourself and your family healthy. A feeding programme at school would also be good as it would show you how to eat in a healthy way and mean you don't have to go hungry through the school day.

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