

Responsibility - key concepts to unpack

- Becoming responsible citizens means being people who can be trusted to do their best for the good of others.
- Being responsible means being prepared to stand up on behalf of others and act and speak for them.
- Being responsible means that others can expect you to make a sensible 'response' in a situation - you won't just give up or stay quiet. You will be ready to act.
- An irresponsible person acts in a way that hurts others, doesn't care about their feelings, just does what pleases him/herself.
- An irresponsible person refuses to face up to the damage or hurt that he or she may cause.
- Responsibility is thinking about the good of everyone, not just what suits one individual.

Children are introduced to the idea of responsibility when:

- they are given a job to do in the class/school on behalf of others, for example, school council representative, monitor, buddy, the job of tidying up the classroom
- they are prepared to own up to something that they have done wrong
- they care for a younger sibling or friend
- they represent the school as part of a team or choir on a special occasion
- they have the job of looking after a pet, maybe at home or for the class