

HOW CAN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES HELP TO PREPARE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS IN LINE WITH FUNDAMENTAL VALUES SUCH AS PEACE AND TOLERANCE OF DIVERSITY

In today's world of industry and consumption, where count only success and perfection in no time, the loudest questions might be: "Where are our human values? Haven't we learned anything from all people in history who were bleeding and dying for their ideals, for democracy, for peace? Do we have the right to throw their achievements away because it is easier to be spoiled and irresponsible?"

Every day we are filled with information and instructions about 'what they want us to want'. It is the house decoration that counts, not family health, it is the car size that matters more than dimension of generosity, the choice of lipstick colour suddenly became worth writing about in newspapers, instead of maybe drawing a report on a new charity concert. Basically, nowadays everything depends on money and commerce. And sadly almost no one can see it.

I can. I have been warned to see beyond materialism and new age axioms. I have been educated to look on things critically. My leaders were my parents and teachers in schools. I guess, I can say I was lucky. But I should not be. All young people should have a chance to be warned about nonsense and stupidity that the world of progress provides. I am not talking about new discoveries, but about losing fundamental values and responsibilities, maybe even humour and self irony. I cannot think of a more important factor than are schools in educating young people to become responsible citizens. Scientists, economists, doctors, pilots..., but not for any cost. To teach them, that being a human is the profession number one of us all, that this is what we have in common, everything else is a rainbow of marvellous variety.

Lucija Žgajnar

Diocesan Classical Gymnasium, Ljubljana