

What is fairness?

Introduction

Fairness can be described as when you treat people equally or in a way that is right or reasonable. It is also when everyone has the responsibility to respect other people's rights regardless of where they come from or what they look like. Another way to look at fairness is when you respect people and their needs. The most important thing to do is to be kind, treat others kindly and help others who are not able to offer as much for whatever reason.

In my tutorials we have also looked at fairness as a way of making sure everyone gets what they deserve for the work they do. It would be right to think that if you treat people fairly and work hard, you will hope they will be fair and equal to you in return. However, it is sad that we don't always live in a world where everyone thinks and acts like this. People are often treated unfairly, either in our own day to day lives or how companies treat their workers. Every day we hear people using the words, "that's not fair" but what is fair to one person may not be fair to another because people have different views. Therefore, fairness is also about making the right choices to have a great life and create different opportunities to meet your needs.

Fair Trade

The first thing I am going to talk about is the Chiquita Bananas business. I think this business is unfair because the CEO gets paid a huge salary of £4,000,000 per year, whereas the plantation workers only receive £1,068 per year. It is unfair because the plantation workers have a lot of things to do, like watering bananas and making the bananas perfect to eat. While the CEO only works on a computer, talking and typing to make the business perfect. Whilst this is still hard work it is not the same as being out in the fields each day and that is what makes the business a success. I personally think that they are still missing something very important FAIR TRADE. Fair trade is a worldwide movement which aims to help farmers in developing countries receive a fair price for the things they sell. Fair trade is very important to the plantation workers because they have to provide food for the children, themselves and their family. Also, they have a lot of responsibilities like keeping a house, paying taxes, the electricity and any other bills. With the money the CEO gives them they can barely afford a house so that would mean that they cannot properly afford necessities. If the Chiquita Bananas business was a fair-trade company, then there would be more money to pay the plantation workers, and it would be fairer.

Need and Deserve

I personally think that fairness is based on two words need and deserve. Need is like food and water you need them to live and deserve is when you have done something

good, so you get something in return for doing well, like getting an 'A' in maths or cleaning the house. So, these are the two words that I think are most important to fairness. Also, they are very important because often children say, 'I need a new toy' when adults need their money to pay the bills.

In some of our tutorials we looked at a 'Human Rights' poster. Human rights are when we all get treated the same and fairly. These are some examples; no-one has the right to hold you in slavery, or you have the right to vote for who you want for your country. . Everyone should have the right to education to help develop understanding and skills. These are all examples of human rights. There are lots more and as we are all born with these rights, it is very important to understand the impact they have on our lives. Human Rights have developed a lot over time, for example, long ago woman and black people used to be treated differently like Rosa Parks. However, Rosa stood up for herself and played a big role in changing the way people think and making the world a fairer place.

Does working hard always pay off?

The story of 'The Grasshopper and The Ants' also gives us ideas on what is fair. The grasshopper is lazy and does not collect food for him and his family. Then when he is in need he knocks on the ants' door and says, 'Can I have some food?' They say, 'no!' Not because they are unkind but because they have seen the grasshopper being lazy and not managing his food collection properly. I think this is fair because the grasshopper should be responsible for his own mistakes by collecting his own food. Also, the grasshopper should be more independent, like collecting his own food to feed his family. I believe that he should also be more aware of the challenges that come during the winter months and be more organised and productive.

You can use this story in relation to a real life example. In some countries, people give money to the government to pay for things like healthcare treatments. This is paid to the government as a percentage of their wages. So, the more you earn the more you must give to the government. Some people pay more money than others even though they don't have to work as hard and those who don't work as hard still get the healthcare, even though they didn't give as much money to it. This is not always fair, but it means that the people with the most money can help the people who don't make as much. The people with the most money don't always need all their money.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I have discussed the different tutorials we have had this term about fairness, but the most important thing is that fairness is being equal to everyone. The note of the day is to always treat people the way you want to be treated. I think that is very important that you are always kind and that you try to help others be kind in return.