

## Profile: Michael Newman

Michael Newman is a qualified secondary school science teacher who has been actively involved in citizenship, enterprise and values education since 1988. He has worked at Summerhill School for over eleven years as a science teacher, curriculum adviser, houseparent, English teacher and primary teacher.

He has been on the executive committees of the Children's Rights Alliance for England (secretary and treasurer), the British Humanist Association, Society for Storyteller's Education Committee, Ipswich and Norwich Co-op Education Committee, Suffolk County Citizenship Education Steering Group and the A.S.Neill's Summerhill Trust.

He has contributed to numerous conferences and supported Summerhill students contributing to the UN Special Session on the Child (NGO delegates), UNESCO's conference of education ministers in Geneva (under the IBE). He organised the first three Dover Schools Conferences with students from Summerhill School as facilitators, involving 14 local secondary schools. He chaired the International Democratic Education Conference 1999. He has organised Summerhill School holding its full community meetings in front of invited guests at the House of Commons and London's City Hall.

He has lobbied with Summerhill students the UK government to promote the values and ideas of Summerhill. He was the facilitator of the school's student action group fighting to save the school from government closure in 1999-2000 (dramatised on Childrens BBC as 'Summerhill').

For eight years he has worked in East London as a development education school's project worker, running events, projects, training and conferences for children and teachers on co-operative enterprise, children's rights, local democracy, restorative justice and the use of ICT in citizenship. He has worked with over 30 local primary schools and 12 secondary schools, some of his work can be seen on

<http://www.eastendtalking.org.uk/ourvoice>