


Tackling racism & religious prejudice in PSHE

Reflecting On Empathy

The atrocities that come about from religious persecution are stark reminders of the need to lead with empathy.

Society is improved when we try putting ourselves in other people's shoes. It helps round us into kinder, more tolerant individuals. Society has more harmony: people can coexist in peace.

Persecuted
Sad
Hopeless
Alone
Victimised
Afraid



Part of our learning in Personal, Social, Health & Economic studies (PSHE) is to educate our young people on prejudice and discrimination. Prejudicial and discriminatory attitudes weaken and divide society, compromising the fabric of multicultural British life. These lessons aim to give a voice to those impacted by discrimination and elevate messages of peace and harmony amongst different groups of people.

In these lessons, we have examined the history of racism. We studied how racism has changed over time, using famous examples of people who were impacted by racist attitudes to showcase that discrimination can negatively impact people's lives. After this, we moved to look at religious persecution and the forms it can take. Pupils considered examples from history, such as the holocaust, which demonstrate the horrors of unchecked religious persecution.

As well as learning about history, pupils engaged their empathy to be able to put themselves in another person's shoes. Here, they were asked to think about how prejudice and discrimination could make someone feel. I strongly believe that empathy is an invaluable teaching tool, allowing our young people to develop into caring, thoughtful and compassionate individuals.

Here is a quote from a Lower 5 pupil on their thoughts on the lesson on religious persecution:

'In PSHE we have recently learned about religious persecution. I found this to be impactful, highlighting the juxtaposition between the tolerance of modern times and religious prejudice of the past. I found this lesson to be eye opening. I believe it teaches us to treat everyone with dignity and kindness, no matter what they believe' Lower 5 pupil.

Mr Ralph Widdop