FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHTS

Introduction
Resource Pack for Schools

Keeping the Disability Rights Movement alive; learning about disability and inclusion through a civic engagement project that will raise awareness to schools about disabled people's rights.

'How do I speak to my pupils about disability? What is the right terminology and how can I fit it within an inclusion friendly curriculum?'

These are common dilemmas school teachers face in relation to addressing diversity and developing knowledge for their pupils on issues that they may themselves be uncertain about, but can be underpinning reasons for bullying of the potentially most vulnerable.

One way to approach difficult subjects is through real-life examples; in this context, Kingston University students have played a vital role in a pioneering initiative sharing the stories of the local borough residents who have helped make history, as part of the Disability Rights Movement. Student nurses and teachers from the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education, run jointly by Kingston University and St George's, University of London, have joined forces to take part in the 'Fighting for our Rights' project.

Led by Kingston Centre for Independent Living (KCIL), the project created a permanent historic record and education resource relating to the period of political and cultural change that began in the 1960s, to inspire future generations of care and education professionals and people with disabilities. The information and memories gathered by student nurses who interviewed local people who fought to break down barriers for people with disabilities during the second half of the 20th Century was used by student teachers to develop a new resource package for Key Stage 2 pupils.

The resource created was developed following copyright permission and ethical guidelines associated with teachers standards. The following cross-curricular learning objectives are included in the lesson plans created:

- To demonstrate awareness of disability by creating a blueprint of the school, which is accessible to individuals with disabilities (Art, PSHE)

- To explore the similarities and differences between people and discuss social and moral dilemmas they will face when dealing with challenging situations and accommodate diversity in all its forms (PSHE)

- To know about the KCIL scheme and its importance to Kingston (History)

- To understand physical disability through experiential learning (PSHE, Drama, English)

- To explore the ethos regarding the lives of people with disabilities in the past (English, History)

- To be able to make similarities and differences of mental health from 18th Century to now (History, English)

- To plan a speech for a campaign to argue what needs to be implemented to make a place accessible (PSHE, English)

It was considered appropriate for these plans to address Year 6 pupils, as they are at an important transition stage that makes them more vulnerable to social exclusion and bullying, but they could be adapted for different age ranges in various educational contexts. The indicative lesson plans are cross-referenced and address several topics relating to inclusion and disability from the perspective of different NC subjects, based on themes

stemming from the oral history interview narratives. Richard Rieser's resources (www.worldofinclusion.com) have been an inspiration, whereas the work addresses commitments relating to the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Equality Act (HMRC, 2010).

The material follows a mastery approach, whereby children will have the opportunity to understand real-life experiences to make learning relevant and not abstract; the topic is approached through different NC subjects in order for children to approach it in depth and from multiple perspectives. You are invited to make relevant choices of subjects, personalise and use them as they see most appropriate. Our student teachers were inspired by these life-narratives and we hope the impact cycle will continue.

For more information about the wider 'Fighting for our Rights' project and to hear the oral history interviews in full, please visit www.kingstongfightingforourrights.co.uk.

Acknowledgements

In the meantime, enjoy the resource and looking forward to any feedback!

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