

Reflecting on pupil experience

Most resources available are written from within an urban context. This set of questions, however, is written from the perspective of the school on the village green in rural England. It can also be adapted to suit the context of anywhere else in the UK through a few minor changes.

What experience do our children have of people who are different from themselves:

- in the village?
- in the local market town?
- on the TV programmes and videos that they watch?
- from magazines and comics they read?
- from the Internet?
- in other forms of the media?
- from reading graffiti?
- from visiting friends or relations in other parts of the country?
- from going on holiday?
- from a visit to London?

Does our village perpetuate or encourage prejudiced attitudes to other people? What about:

- gypsies/travellers?
- people who have recently moved into the village?
- university students?
- asylum seekers?
- people living in the next village?
- teenagers from the local town?
- supporters of football teams from other parts of the country?
- tourists?

How would our village community react if;

- our family doctor was Indian?
- a Chinese or Indian takeaway opened?
- an Afro-Caribbean family moved into a council house in the village?
- a local woman married a Turkish waiter?
- a local family adopted or fostered a child of a minority ethnic group?

Is it possible to ascertain that our pupils are not exposed to or learning racist attitudes from people in our local community?

Can we say that these issues are nothing to do with us?

What, as a school, are we doing about it?

“Schools will only begin to challenge racism and promote and value racial diversity effectively when they place partnership with pupils, parents, staff and local communities at the heart of their work.”