

# Case Study:

Blackburn and Darwen Secondary Schools

**Blackburn and Darwen Earth Summit  
Lancashire Global Education Centre  
& Global Link**

**17th March 2005**

## **Key theme:**

Asylum Seekers and refugees.

## **Key question for the day:**

Where are they going to go and how are they going to be treated?

## **Background:**

The Summit was organised through the Citizenship Co-ordinators group in Blackburn & Darwen. Schools involved included; Beardwood HS, Darwen Moorland, Darwen Vale, Our Lady and St John, St Bede's, Witton Park, Cross Hill (Special School) and Newfield (Special School). The summit was supported by SEMA (Support for Ethnic Minority Achievement) Blackburn & Darwen and held at Jans Conference Centre in Blackburn.

## **Key learning outcomes:**

Greater levels of empathy and respect for others.

## **Evaluations:**

'When they were doing their final presentations, having worked together in small groups, you wouldn't know that the groups were made up of kids from two different schools'.

'P4C allows the students to be in control of their own learning. It involves everyone, even those who don't talk so much are engaged, which you can tell when they break up into smaller groups. The kids were very open.'

Every year Escape to Safety visits schools across Blackburn & Darwen. Escape to safety is an interactive multimedia exhibition where each participant walks through a labyrinth of 8 'stations' depicting the different stages of refugee experiences before seeking asylum in Europe. On a portable CD player, they are accompanied by refugee voices from Rwanda, Afghanistan and Palestine interacting with border immigration officials and the media. The schools decided that it would be a good idea to have a conference / link the schools involved in Escape to Safety. It was decided that an Earth Summit on the issue of Asylum Seekers and Refugees would be a good way to bring schools together and to carry on the theme. For more information visit [Global Link](#).

They really enjoyed it and were asking to do it again'.

'The kids were listening to each other and changing their own views'.

#### **Aims of the event:**

- To enable students to gain a broader understanding of how countries make decisions nationally and internationally.
- To make students aware of the human rights issues associated with asylum seekers and refugees especially with regards to bullying and racism.
- To enable students to gain knowledge and understanding of the wider (international) issue of asylum seekers and refugees.
- To develop skills in communication, decision making, considering other view points, listening to others, debating skills as well as persuasive writing.
- To give students the opportunity to work together with students from other schools in the area to encourage positive relationships between local communities.

### **Links to the National Curriculum at KS3:**

- Knowledge and understanding about becoming informed citizens.
- Developing skills of enquiry and communication.
- Developing skills of participation and responsible actions.

**For details of the event including details of activities that took place please [click here](#).**

### **Example Resolutions produced on the day:**

SUDAN - Treat all people of all countries as human beings, with dignity, humanity and equality, to cancel debt and develop fair trade to help countries be a better place to live in.

UK – take more refugees from underdeveloped countries and support financially to prevent world poverty and help make these countries independent and safe.

ITALY – join with us to share equally asylum seekers and to fund poorer countries so they will be able to take their quota of refugees.

### **Quotes from the news reports produced by the media groups on the day:**

Tabloid: 'The USA...managed to talk a lot with out answering any questions, and skirt around the real issues'. 'This conference seemed to be a series of false promises and accusations ...it's hardly united nations!'

Broadsheet: 'Both the USA and the UK were keen to commit more aid but were a little evasive on the issue of allowing more refugees into their countries. ... Figures from the world refugee survey support what the NGO's and the developing countries were saying as the countries with the most money have the least amount of refugees in their care'.

### **Examples evaluations:**

**One thing I learnt today was...** 'Asylum seekers aren't bad' . How many Asylum seekers there are'. It is important to listen to others views and opinions'. How international decisions are made'.

**One thing I enjoyed today was...** 'Listening to other people views'. To meet people'. 'The decision'. 'Discussing all the different views of the countries'. 'The debating'.

### **A representative of Amnesty International who attended the event commented:**

**"I have learnt how deeply young people think about these issues. I enjoyed the feedback from them. It was a wonderful day"**.