The ACT Building Resilience Project

Case Study: Community People

School: The Anglo European School, Ingatestone, Essex

The Anglo European School in Essex is a non-selective, 11-19, comprehensive school with an ‘internationalist’ ethos, offering the International Baccalaureate alongside traditional A Levels. Pupils come from the local catchment area, London, Suffolk and other parts of Essex. Over 50 languages are spoken by pupils at the school.

Aims

The project involved teaching a sequence of five Citizenship lessons to Year 7 pupils to develop understanding of the concept of community, explore diverse viewpoints and learn why some people hold extreme opinions and undertake terrorist acts.

Actions

Through a sequence of learning activities and structured debates, pupils developed the knowledge and skills to explore and discuss controversial issues sensitively, including views other than their own, evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of different arguments and learned to justify their point of view. They considered how society can respond to extreme ideas and worked together to create information sheets to educate younger pupils about extremism.

Impact

Pupils demonstrated the ability to think critically, talk and listen with others about sensitive issues and gained the confidence to work as a team to try to find ways to respond to extremism in society.

The school has gained a set of teaching and learning resources for teaching staff to use to enhance their discrete Citizenship curriculum.

Next steps

Teachers involved in the project are planning to train other staff in teaching about extremism and radicalisation. Some of the project work will be further developed for use with Year 9 pupils when learning about conflict and conflict resolution. The use of structured debates is to be rolled out as a department policy and used in the school’s extra-curricular debating society to ensure consistency in approach.