

The ACT Building Resilience Project

Case Study: Exploring issues of extremism and radicalisation through enquiry

School: Addey and Stanhope School, Lewisham, London

Addey and Stanhope School is a voluntary aided specialist technology school for pupils aged 11-18. It is co-educational, mixed ability and very diverse in its ethnic makeup.

Aims

- To help pupils have a clearer understanding of what is terrorism
- To consider to what extent government can address issues of extremism.
- To consider how helpful government advice to schools on Prevent is in meeting the challenges of radicalisation, terrorism and extremism.

Actions

Pupils in Year 9 explored the varied definitions, forms and notions of terrorism, radicalisation and extremism. They critically engaged with case studies of terroristic behaviours and extremism. They evaluated the different sections of government advice to schools on Prevent and assessed how well they thought the advice helps address the challenge of radicalisation. Their critical analysis led to them having complex discussions about the key issues based on their own research then making presentations on their commentary to their peers.

Impact

Pupils commented that they now have a clearer understanding of notions of extremism and felt empowered to hold more complex discussions. They also feel comfortable in engaging with government literature. The project similarly helped teaching staff feel more confident in exploring challenging issues relating to extremism, especially in the use of language and question raising.

Next steps

To embed these lessons within the Citizenship programme and share the experience of teaching them with other staff at the school and across Lewisham. Pupils who took part in the project are sending their critique of government advice to schools on Prevent to the Home Office.