



PEN PICTURE: Show Racism the Red Card

Show Racism the Red Card works with a variety of learners and the majority of those engaging with our anti-racism educational opportunities are children and young people in the context of formal school settings. These participants will be representative of the school population across Scotland and therefore 96% will identify as white British or white Scottish and therefore won't be experiencing disadvantage/exclusion because of racism.

In all of our educational work we encourage young people to think holistically about racism by reflecting on their own perceptions of experiences of inequality. This is a powerful way for young people to conceptualise social injustice. We also recognise that young people experiencing social exclusion are often more susceptible to the misconceptions and 'othering' which can lay the foundations for racist actions. Our work attempts to challenge those misconceptions and give a voice to young people who often don't have an outlet for the frustrations they may feel.

The impact of our work for excluded young people can be illustrated through a project recently delivered in Crieff, Perthshire.

The school had a number of pupils who were not being presented for the new National 4/5 exams. Despite classes being suspended for exam leave, these 'unpresented' pupils still needed to be timetabled for activity within school. The young people had not been consulted in this process and many were experiencing social disadvantage and exclusion from education. Show Racism the Red Card staff communicated closely with the school and offered an opportunity for these young people to be involved in an educational anti-racism programme. Through creative activity the project supported the group's exploration of the dangers of racism to both victims and perpetrators and offered a voice to young people who often felt disenfranchised in their community. Reflecting on their participation one of the young people told us what they got from their engagement:

"At first we weren't sure what the Show Racism the Red Card project would be all about but after becoming involved we were really inspired and pleased that people cared what we had to say about the issues. We had to present our project at two different events with Perth and Kinross Council and with first year pupils and we never imagined we would be able to stand up in front of people and talk. I would definitely challenge racism now if I heard my friends using it"

SRtRC, Participant

From the perspective of Show Racism the Red Card it was very important to ensure that the pupils valued participating in this project. It can be very easy for adults to dismiss young people's voices, but we value young people as being key players in the struggle against racism and it is important to amplify their views and feelings around prejudice and discrimination in order to educate peers as well as older generations. The pupils involved in this project exemplify just how passionate they are about this subject.