

Session 4

Pursuing Justice

Key learning

Pupils explore the concept of justice and the role they play in creating a climate of justice and hospitality.



Before the session

You will need:

- Slides for this session
- A copy of *The Rough-Face Girl* by Rafe Martin
- A room/space in the school environment for children to walk freely

Story

Be Curious (Community)

Introduce children to the notion and idea of justice and injustice.

Show children a picture of Lady Justice.

Notes



Ask the children the quadrant questions:

- What do you see?
- What do you think?
- What do you know?
- What do you want to know?

Explain that this is Lady Justice, often associated with high courts and institutions of justice. She is typically depicted wearing a **blindfold**, holding a set of **scales** and a **sword**.

Ask:

- Why does she have these items?
- What might they represent?
 - **Blindfold** – fairness
 - **Scales** – balance, equality, justice, and harmony
 - **Sword** – power, protection, authority, strength, and courage

Suggested questions for discussion:

- What would happen if we removed the blindfold from Lady Justice?
- Would this impact the way justice is delivered?

difference.

Discussion

Share this case study of the 2022 World Cup with your class:

During the World Cup of 2022, the England football team played really well to proceed in the tournament. Some of their players were very young and talented. Three of these players were named Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho, and Bukayo Saka. They practiced a lot and gave their best effort in the games.



In one of the important games, the match ended in a draw, so they had to decide the winner through penalty kicks. A penalty kick is a very intense moment where one player tries to score a goal with only the goalkeeper trying to stop them.

Marcus, Jadon, and Bukayo took their turns to try and score, but unfortunately, they missed their shots. This made some fans very upset.

Notes

The unfair reaction

Instead of just being disappointed about the game, some people did something very wrong. They sent mean and hurtful messages to Marcus, Jadon, and Bukayo. These messages were not just about missing the goals; they were about their skin colour. This is called racism – treating people unfairly just because of the colour of their skin.

How did they feel?

Imagine if you tried your very best at something, like a big school play or a sports game, but things didn't go as planned. You'd feel sad, right? Now imagine if people were mean to you not just because of that, but because of something you can't change about yourself, like your skin colour. It would feel even worse.

Marcus, Jadon, and Bukayo felt hurt and sad because of the racist messages. It's important to remember that no one deserves to be treated badly because of their appearance or background.

Despite the treatment they received, they also had much support from fans worldwide who did not hold these racist views. For Bukayo Saka in particular, his faith also played an important part in him being able to navigate through this difficult time.

Ask

- What would you say to the three players at this time?

You may wish to include your own example to help pupils connect more deeply with the topic, ensuring the discussion remains engaging and relevant to their experiences, while also maintaining psychological safety.

Space

Be Present (Embrace)



Activity

Fill in the blanks

Arrange the children to sit in small group circles. Ask them to complete the following statements verbally. Model a couple of the positive statements to your class. This can also be done outside.

- "I can help others feel safe by _____."
- "When I see someone being treated unfairly, I will _____."
- "I can make a difference by _____."
- "I feel proud when I stand up for _____."
- "I show fairness by _____."
- "When something is not right, I will _____."
- "I will treat everyone with respect by _____."
- "I can be a good friend by _____."
- "I will use my voice to _____."
- "I believe everyone deserves _____, so I will _____."

Notes

Sanctuary

Reimagine (Power)

 **Notes**



Bible passage

"Gracious words are a
honeycomb, sweet to the soul
and healing to the bones."

Proverbs 16:24 (NIV)

Explain to the children that choosing the right words to speak of others is key to making and maintaining peace and restoring justice.



Activity

Mindful walking

Mindful walking is a simple and calming practice where we pay close attention to each step we take. As we walk slowly and quietly, we focus on our breathing and the feeling of our feet touching the ground. While walking, we can think about positive affirmations – kind and encouraging words we say to ourselves. This helps us feel more connected to our thoughts and feelings, and it brings a sense of peace and confidence as we move through our day.

Engage in this walk around the school grounds or another special part of the school where children discuss how they might feel if the affirmations are lived out.

Ask

- What kind of class/school community will they be creating?

Examples of affirmations:

- I am calm and relaxed.
- I am friendly and social.
- I am kind and caring.
- I am happy and grateful.
- I am confident and brave.
- I am connected to nature.
- I am open to meeting new people.
- I am respectful and polite.



Reflection

You may want to read this reflection aloud to your pupils.

In our journey through life, there are moments when we encounter the unjust and unfair sides of humanity. We see acts of unkindness, injustice, and harm that can leave us feeling disheartened and disillusioned. These experiences can challenge our faith in goodness and fairness.

Yet, it is precisely in these moments of darkness that our call to pursue justice becomes most vital. Justice is not about seeking revenge or holding onto anger. It is about striving to create a world where fairness, compassion, and respect prevail, even when we have witnessed the opposite.

In the face of darkness, let us be the light. In the presence of wrong, let us strive to do what is right. And in a world that sometimes shows us its worst, let us respond with our best.



Prayer

Notes

Dear God,

Sometimes we see others in a way that we perhaps shouldn't. Remind us that we can make a difference by choosing to do what is right and just. Give us the strength and courage to stand up for justice, to speak out against wrongs, and to treat everyone with kindness and respect.

Guide our hearts to seek fairness and to help those who are hurting or in need. Teach us to forgive, to heal, and to work together to make our world a better, more just place.

Thank you for your love and guidance.

Amen.



End of session 4