Framework for Mutual and Productive Conversations about Race in Education

This article explores the challenges that educators in Scotland may face when trying to engage in conversations about race. It draws on methods developed in the USA and concludes with a helpful framework for Scottish practitioners to use when engaging in difficult conversations about race.

About Race

A great place to start for anyone seeking to learn more about race relations and anti-racist activism in the UK. This podcast by Reni Eddo-Lodge continues the conversations she started with her best-selling book, ‘Why I’m No Longer Talking to White People About Race’.

Manifestations of Racism in Scottish Education

This blog post outlines the multiple ways in which racism exists in Scottish education – overt and covert racism, alienation, a racist curriculum and racist attitudes within the teaching profession. More generally, the Anti-Racist Educator is a Scottish online learning platform covering a wide range of materials to develop teachers’ professional understanding of anti-racist practice, including teaching resources.

Talking with Young People about Race and Racism

These classroom resources, from the British Red Cross, include a range of activities to support practitioners in discussing race with learners, exploring racism, the Black Lives Matter movement and accessible forms of anti-racist action.

The Uprising

The historical roots of racism help us make sense of contemporary racism. This documentary film provides an analysis of the history and legacy of colonialism, while telling the story of resistance against racism in Europe. Brilliant CPD for teachers and to use for classroom learning.

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Racism: a Threat to Our Mental Health

This blog post explores the many ways racism can harm the mental wellbeing of racialised minorities. It supports educators to see the harmful psychological impact of racism and the importance of creating inclusive spaces which can support learners to develop greater resilience.

Black Self / White World

This TED Talk by American activist, Jabari Lyles, presents the effects of internalised racism as a result of living in a world where whiteness is rewarded and anti-Blackness is common. An important video for educators to consider the ways in which their lessons may be causing pupils to internalise racism.

Addressing Inclusion: Effectively Challenging Racism in Schools

A resource for teachers by the Coalition for Racial Equality & Rights and RespectMe, Scotland’s anti-bullying service. It explores the impact of racist bullying on children and young people, the barriers to reporting this bullying and how to create a school environment where all learners feel happy, safe, respected and included.

In this TED Talk, Black British activist, Mena Fombo, reveals the psychological impacts of racial microaggressions and the symbolic violence associated with touching a Black person’s hair. This video will help practitioners expand their understanding of the adverse effects of racial microaggressions and could be used as a classroom resource.

“Every Black person deserves the same privileges as our peers. We deserve the right to go to work and not be attacked. We deserve the right to an education and not be attacked” Mena Fombo

“Antiracist education should really be seen as beneficial for both white people and people of colour because it is necessary for nurturing well-rounded human beings.” Mélina Valdelièvre

Case Study of Racism in Scottish Education

This blog post with an accompanying podcast episode presents a case study of racism in Scottish education and the impact it has on the mental wellbeing of pupils and their families. It exposes the harms of racist stereotypes in schools and the hardships parents, carers and pupils may face when trying to report racist incidents.

© Clip from the video
© Adapted from Racism: a Threat to Our Mental Health

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Why “I’m Not Racist” is only Half the Story

‘White fragility’, a term coined by American scholar Robin DiAngelo, tends to be one of the main obstacles in anti-racist work. In this short video, DiAngelo explains why thinking “I’m not racist” is not enough for promoting race equality.

Conversations about Racism and Whiteness are Missing Within Education in Scotland


White Privilege Test

This blog post, from the Anti-Racist Educator, presents a white privilege test adapted to fit a Scottish context. A great resource for Scottish educators to reflect on their lived experiences, privilege and the myth of meritocracy. It can equally be used as a classroom resource to help pupils consider the differences of their lived experiences.

Critical Race Theory with David Gillborn: Staying Critical and Realistic about Racism

In this podcast, English scholar David Gillborn shares his advice for anti-racist activists and explains how Critical Race Theory helped him improve his anti-racist work as a white ally. He unpacks what whiteness, white supremacy and structural racism means in the context of the UK and education.

“I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group.” Peggy McIntosh
4. Intersectionality

The Urgency of Intersectionality

Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term ‘intersectionality’. In this TED Talk video, she explains how race and gender bias can combine (or intersect) to exacerbate marginalisation. While many are aware of the Black Lives Matter movement, the #SayHerName campaign reveals the forgotten stories of Black women and the extensive violence they face.

“If you’re standing in the path of multiple forms of exclusion, you’re likely to get hit by both.” Kimberlé Crenshaw

Reflections on the Counter-Islamophobia Kit

This article unpacks a useful toolkit to counter Islamophobia. It includes lesson ideas and learning points for teachers to think more critically about the narratives of Islamophobia that may appear in Scottish education. The counter-narratives in this article explore the intersections of race, religion, feminism and queer identities.

Economic Refugees and the IMF/World Bank

This podcast episode identifies the links between imperialism, global power imbalance and the anti-immigrant rhetoric that exists today. This discussion challenges the saviour narrative often present in Western countries when dealing with refugees or charity initiatives, and it presents important learning points for teachers to think more critically about Global Citizenship.

Social Identity Wheel

The Social Identity Wheel is an inclusive teaching tool that encourages learners to reflect on the various ways their identities may influence their worldview. This exercise will help both teachers and learners realise the complexity of their identities and the privileges (or lack thereof) which will affect their lived experiences.

“As long as you send all children out into the world to be actively educated into racism, taught a white supremacist version of history, literature and art, then you are setting up a future generation to perpetuate the same violence on which that system of power depends.” Afua Hirsch
5. DECOLONISING THE CURRICULUM

Decolonising the (English) Curriculum

This recording of an online CPD debunks the assumptions that education is neutral and explains how a decolonial lens can help educators develop a more inclusive curriculum which seeks to address imbalances of power.

Our Migration Story

This website gathers the untold stories of generations of migrants who came to, and shaped, the British Isles from AD43 to the 2000s. The timeline, glossary and teaching resources make it a valuable tool for practitioners seeking to decolonise their curriculum.

100 Great Black Britons

100 Great Black Britons is a fabulous resource for teachers seeking to challenge anti-Black racism in a way that celebrates the contributions of Britons of African and Caribbean heritage.

Colourful Heritage

Colourful Heritage preserves and celebrates the contributions of early South Asian and Muslim communities in Scotland. It contains extensive archives of oral and written accounts that could be used in various subjects, providing important counter-narratives in Scottish history. The contributions of South Asian soldiers during WWI and WWII and the primary school classroom resources are worth checking out.

Gypsy Traveller History Education Pack

Gypsy Roma and Traveller pupils are statistically the most vulnerable group of pupils in Scotland and their stories continue to be forgotten in many Scottish classrooms.

Preserving Family History

Drawing on principles of Culturally-Relevant Pedagogy, this unit encourages learners to develop closer bonds with their relatives, while strengthening their cultural identity and understanding of the past. Beneficial for pupils of all backgrounds, this interdisciplinary resource (downloadable here) can be adapted for online learning and different age groups.

Lessons for young citizens from the Scottish anti-apartheid movement

Wosdec’s resource for 2nd & 3rd levels, ‘When Mandela Danced in the Square’, explores the anti-apartheid movement, the links with racist discrimination today and supports young people to take action on injustice.

Books for children

An interactive and printable poster of books for children of all ages, shared by the Black Asian & Minority Ethnic Educators (BAMEed) network.