

Solutions Not Sides: Supporting Excellence in the Classroom

Introduction

Solutions Not Sides workshops are an excellent tool for teachers and students in helping them to achieve excellence in teaching and learning and can be assessed against both the SIAMS curriculum, as explained in this document, and [OFSTED inspections](#). Church of England schools and academies can book these workshops to enrich enquiry based learning as a part of the curriculum. The workshops cover key stages 3-5 and compliment the R.S., History, Politics and Citizenship/PSHE curriculum.

What is our approach?

Solutions Not Sides inspires the whole school community to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in their local, national and global communities. The workshops fall under the Church of England's [Vision for Education](#) by promoting wisdom, hope, community and dignity for all peoples and promotion of Christian values. Additionally they play a part in:

- Recognising media bias and challenging narratives, particularly Antisemitism and Islamophobia.
- Promoting the principles of British Values to prepare students to become informed citizens of multicultural modern Britain
- An opportunity to engage with international politics and learn about the actions of civil society in Israel-Palestine.
- Thinking globally and understanding the impact of our actions when actively engaging in global politics.
- Being confident in conflict resolution, public speaking, critical analysis, working as a group, and finding inspiration through grassroots and non-violent activism in making democratic change.
- Understanding the importance of our role as a global citizen in line with goals in SMSC education.

How do our workshops and approach link to the inspection strands?

Solutions Not Sides interdisciplinary approach suits the following key aims:

- **Strand 2 – Wisdom, knowledge and skills:**

Our workshops emphasise critical thinking and discussions on the importance of recognising and respecting identities. They encourage questioning, listening and responding creatively as well as exploration and articulation of spatial and ethical ideas.

- **Strand 3 – Character development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy:**

Students are presented with examples of ethical judgements and provided with the tools to distinguish right from wrong and engage more intelligently with bigger arguments to support these judgements. Culture and identity are explored

to evoke students' own awareness of themselves, others, and how we all connect as an international community, especially in times of war and conflict

- **Strand 4 - Community and living well together:**

SNS workshops promote cohesion and reconciliation by encouraging students to see themselves as members of a global community within which difference is celebrated. SNS's non-partisan approach has been designed to equip students with skills needed to make solution-focused contributions. By meeting a young Israeli and Palestinian speaker, students shift from enmity to empathy by taking part in politically contentious debates, highlighting above all the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation.

- **Strand 5- Dignity and respect:**

SNS programmes promote solution-focused dialogue through healthy debate and are crafted with the aim to reduce polarisation and promote empathy and open-mindedness and denounce prejudice of any kind. The importance of finding a solution to the conflict which fosters peace and security for all religions, ethnicities and nationalities is at the core of SNS' messaging on conflict resolution.

- **Strand 7- The Impact of Religious Education**

Not only does SNS promote a better understanding of the three Abrahamic religions, but also exemplifies how religious tolerance and coexistence can play a role in peacemaking. Students meet real people who are extraordinary role models in bringing people together and can show how Religious Education plays a vital role in building conscientious, global citizens.

Where can you find out more information?

Solutions Not Sides regularly works with Religious Education classes through the Peace and Conflict module. To find out more, see [here](#).