

Courageous advocacy in History

Year 6: Refugees Then and Now

Focus: Comparing child evacuees in WWII with modern-day refugees.

Class activity:

- Study British evacuation experiences and Kindertransport stories.
- Invite a guest speaker from a refugee charity (e.g. Refugee Council) to connect history to current global issues.
- **Advocacy project:** Run a donation drive for refugees, create educational posters about welcome and belonging, or write persuasive letters to local MPs about refugee support.

SIAMS values: Dignity, hope, community, global citizenship.

Year 5 “Peace-Makers and Bridge-Builders”

Focus: The peace agreements between Anglo-Saxons and Vikings that led to the Danelaw.

Learning link: Study how leaders negotiated peace after years of conflict.

Advocacy project:

- Re-enact peace treaties and reflect on what makes reconciliation possible.
- Pupils identify a situation in school or community where *reconciliation* is needed — e.g. promoting friendship across groups, resolving playground disputes.
- Launch a “Peace Pact” or **Reconciliation Week** in school, inspired by historical peace-making.

SIAMS Values: Forgiveness, reconciliation, hope, community.

Year 4 “Voices of the Conquered” – Understanding Empathy and Justice

Focus: Roman invasion and the impact on native Britons.

Learning link: Explore how the Celts and local tribes were affected by invasion — loss of land, freedom, and culture.

Advocacy project:

- Pupils discuss how people today can lose their homes or freedom through conflict or injustice.
- Create an awareness campaign about **standing up for fairness and human rights**, linking ancient injustice to modern ones.
- Possible partnership with charities like *Amnesty International* (age-appropriate).

SIAMS Values: Justice, compassion, dignity, hope.

Year 3 “Democracy Then and Now” – Standing Up for Fairness

Focus: The birth of democracy in Ancient Athens.

Learning link: Pupils explore how ordinary citizens began to have a say in decisions and how that changed society.

Advocacy project:

- Pupils create a “**School Democracy day**” where they debate issues, make class decisions, or run a mini-election.
- Reflect on how they can use their voices to stand up for fairness and justice today — in school or the wider world.
- Connect to *Christian values of justice, dignity, and the worth of every voice*.

SIAMS Values: Justice, wisdom, respect, community.

Courageous advocacy theme: Speaking up for fairness and equality.

Year 2 “From Mills to Modern Times” – Standing Up for Workers and Fairness

Focus: Wigan’s industrial past – coal mining, textile mills, and working conditions.

Learning link: Explore what life was like for miners and mill workers, including children, and how people fought for fair pay and safer conditions.

Advocacy project:

- Pupils research **campaigners for justice** (e.g. trade unions, local reformers).
- Connect to modern-day issues of **workers’ rights, fairness, and dignity**.
- Plan a “**Fair Work, Fair World**” campaign — raise awareness of Fairtrade, ethical clothing, or workers’ welfare today.

SIAMS Values: Justice, dignity, community, perseverance.

Courageous advocacy theme: Standing up for fairness and human dignity in work and society.

Year 1 “A Good King or Queen” – Leading with Kindness

Focus: What makes a good or bad monarch? Compare kings and queens (e.g. Elizabeth II, Queen Victoria, Henry VIII).

Learning link: Explore what power means and how leaders use it to help or harm others.

Advocacy idea:

- Class discussion: *What makes a good leader?* (kindness, fairness, listening, helping others).
- Pupils write or draw **rules for a kind kingdom** — “In our kingdom, everyone is cared for.”
- Turn this into a **class charter** for fairness and kindness at school.

SIAMS Values: Justice, wisdom, compassion, service.

Courageous advocacy theme: Using power and influence for good.