

## Why is this topic important?

We are aware that in recent weeks many of our pupils will have been exposed online to content that may be upsetting, may make them anxious and that may mean they have questions. As a school, we stand in solidarity with the black community and believe we have a role to play in educating our pupils to be anti-racist. We feel that we have a responsibility to our pupils to give them an opportunity to learn about these events more formally, as we would have done through character sessions under normal circumstances.

### Resources:

All the resources are available to view on the school website. In the sessions, the pupils engage with the following resources:

#### KS3, 4 and 5:

BBC News: George Floyd death – how British people are reacting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clQJgWifap4>

George the Poet on Hate Crime

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWmjfha96R8>

#### KS4 and 5:

George the Poet on BBC Newsnight discussing Black Lives Matter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn6t74KJoO8>

How to Make this Moment the Turning Point for Real Change – Barack Obama

<https://medium.com/@BarackObama/how-to-make-this-moment-the-turning-point-for-real-change-9fa209806067>

KS4 and 5 are also given further reading recommendations, available in the powerpoint sessions. Where statistics have been used, these have been referenced in the slides.

### Guidance for questions your children may have:

#### **Is the UK a racist country?**

One of the UK's five British values is tolerance and mutual respect. There are laws making it illegal to discriminate against people based on their race. However, there is evidence that suggests unconscious bias and discrimination do still happen and that racism exists in the country.

#### **Can I trust the police?**

It is important to trust the police. However, as a public institution it is essential that members of the public hold the police to account. If you are in danger or someone you know is in danger, it is extremely important that you call the police for your safety.

#### **Surely all lives matter, not just black lives?**

This movement has been started in response to racism which in particular targets black people, in the USA. Currently in the UK, evidence suggests certain disadvantages or biases disproportionately impact people from BAME backgrounds. The aim of this antiracism movement is greater equality between all people, but that means focusing in particular on the groups who are oppressed. All lives do matter, but where one group's lives are under threat, they require greater attention.

#### **Where can I get help if my child is worried or experiences racism?**

If your child is anxious as a result of these sessions, please inform their tutor during their weekly calls. If your child experiences racism, particularly if the incident is in school, please contact the pupil's head of year.