

The way we are

Group activity worksheet



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Developing an emotionally intelligent school involves commitment, time, and planning. VisionWorks teaching programmes systematically build emotional intelligence and profoundly improve the climate for learning.

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Written by teachers for teachers

The way we are

The purpose of this activity is to:

- Highlight how children in the UK compare with children in the rest of Europe
- Shift students away from simply accepting the status quo
- Enable students to see themselves as part of a wider group
- Look at the cause of a problem and suggest solutions.

Action

Show Resource 1. Read the parts from the article that shows that children in the UK do not have as good a deal as we might think.

Put students into pairs, threes or groups and ask them to talk about why they think this is happening in our country. 3 – 5 minutes.

Share ideas as a class.

Show resource 2. Either return students to same pairs/groups or make different groupings and discuss what we could do to improve life for children in the UK.

Share ideas as a class.

If appropriate, write ideas in a notebook/ in file/ on flip chart/ IWB etc.

The way we are - Resource 1

A leading British newspaper has printed the findings of a research project that looked at the well being of children in Europe.

This is what it says:

CHILDREN in Britain are among the worst off in Europe, with many living in dysfunctional families that refuse to eat together or talk to each other, researchers have found. A report comparing data on children and teenagers across the 25 European Union countries ranks Britain as 21st on an index of “child wellbeing”. Children fare worse only in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Slovakia.

The report states that, according to a survey by the World Health Organisation (WHO), only 26.7% of British children aged 11, 13 and 15 eat fruit on a daily basis. Just over half eat breakfast before school.

They found that fewer than half of 4,000 British children aged 11, 13 and 15 regarded their friends as “kind and helpful”.

According to further WHO data, Britain’s 14 and 15-year-olds are the fourth fattest in Europe.

A survey of 4,000 British 15-year-old schoolchildren, by a European school survey project on alcohol and other drugs, found that more than 25% had been drunk 20 times or more, the second highest level in Europe. A total of 38% had used cannabis.

More than 33% of children claimed to have had sex by the age of 15, the highest level in Europe. In Spain the proportion was 16%.

In contrast, children in Holland are the best off. Nearly nine out of 10 enjoy regular meals with their parents, 7.6% are overweight and only 6% of teenagers are binge drinkers.

The way we are - Resource 2

