



What's going on this week?

More than 300,000 people in Britain (one in every 200 people), are officially recorded as homeless, according to figures recently released by the charity Shelter. This is an increase of 13,000 over the past year. Last month, the Government announced its strategy in response to the problem, the Homelessness Reduction Act, which comes into force next year.

Main question:

Should we give money to the homeless?

Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster image and talk about the man in the picture. Explain that the number of people who are homeless in the UK has increased a lot over the past few years. Think about some of the reasons why this might be the case. Talk about what we would do if we were walking past the man in the picture. Discuss if we think it's good to give people begging money and consider the other ways we may be able to help. E.g. charities or volunteering. Talk about if we can always tell if someone is homeless? Explain that not everyone is like the man on the poster, begging on a street. Explain that there are lots of different types of people who become homeless for different reasons. E.g. their rent and bills become too expensive, or they might lose their job and not have any family or friends to help.
- Look through the assembly resource, which tells the story of Pauline Town from Ashton-under-Lyne, who regularly goes out of her way to help homeless people.
- Watch this week's useful video (link found overleaf, scroll down to the 2nd video on the webpage). Talk through the different ways in which we can help homeless people.

Reflection

The number of homeless people is increasing in the UK, for many different reasons and often beyond their control. There are lots of different ways we can choose to help. We can support the excellent work of charities or we can support organisations or volunteers in our local area.



KS1 Focus

Question:

How can we help people who don't have homes to live in?

Listen, think, share

- Write the word 'homeless' for children to see and then ask the children what we mean by this. Explain that if someone is homeless it means that they don't have their own home to live in. Talk about all the things that would make things very difficult if we didn't have our own homes. E.g. not having a bed, cupboards for our things, money for food, being separated from our families or a TV to watch. Tell the children that people can become homeless for lots of different reasons and sometimes they are very unlucky.
- Talk about what people who are homeless can do to try to change things. Explain that sometimes people might sell magazines or beg to make money. There are also lots of charities that can help people find a job or provide houses.
- Look at the picture of Emily from the KS1 resource. Ask the children what they see. What do we know about Emily from the picture? Explain that Emily has been homeless. Read through the story of Emily and talk about how people from the homeless charity helped her.

Reflection

There are many ways we can help people who don't have a home to live in. Including donating to charities, or volunteer e.g. making meals in homeless shelters.



KS2 Focus

Question:

Whose fault is it that people end up homeless?

Listen, think, share

- Talk about our own experiences of seeing homeless people and talk about how we feel when we see someone begging. Do we feel sorry for them? Do we ever wonder how they got into that situation? Try to imagine how it might feel not having a home to go to and to not know where their next meal will come from.
- Look though the KS2 resource, which provides real life stories about how two people became homeless. Talk about how they ended up in that situation and how they overcame the obstacles they faced.
- What role do you think the Government has in preventing and tackling helping people who are at risk of becoming or are homeless? Explain that their new strategy contains 3 steps, prevention, intervention and recovery. Which do you think will be the most important?
- Some people who are homeless may not have family or friends to help and they may not have been able to get a job or their bills and rent may have increased.

Reflection

Sometimes things in life happen outside our control and we end up being in very difficult situations. For many people, who end up on the streets, this is the case. It's important to not make judgements about others, but to learn the reasons why they are in their situation and to be kind and help wherever we can.



KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children to imagine what it must feel like to be homeless. Imagine they are sat, huddled in a shop door just as the sun begins to set and the day darkens.

- What can you see/hear/smell?
- How do you feel?

Work in pairs or small groups to record ideas. Focus on some of the vocabulary and up-level it, using a thesaurus. Add these words to their work.

Ask the children to use their ideas to write a free verse poem. Explain that this type of poem does not rhyme or have a regular rhythm. Ask the children to consider the questions below as they plan and draft their ideas.

- What emotion am I trying to evoke in my reader?
- Can my poem make people stop and think?

Allow children to share their poetry with another class or take home to parents. You could even publish some in your newsletter!

Option 2: The charity, Shelter, estimates that there are 307,000 people in Britain who are homeless.

- Say 307,000. Can you write it in words?
- Write the number that is 1 more/1 less than 307,000. What about 10 more/10 less or 100 more/100 less?

The number of people who are homeless in Britain has increased by 13,000 over the last year.

- How many people were estimated to be homeless last year?
- Explain how you worked this out to a partner.

Challenge – Going by the statistics provided by Shelter, one in every 200 people are officially recorded as homeless. How many people would that be in your school? What percentage of the population is this?



KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children to think about all of the things the body needs to be healthy. List the following on the board: healthy food, plenty of water to drink, exercise, sleep, a clean body. Explain that these are the main things that our body needs to be healthy.

Ask the children to discuss the following with a talk partner:

- What healthy food do you eat?
- What exercise do you do?
- What time do you go to bed/get up?
- What do you do each day to make sure you are clean?

Allow time to share responses. Children could record their ideas using pictures, words and sentences.

- If you were homeless, would you find it difficult to keep your body healthy?

Go through each of the things on the board discussing how difficult these things might be to find or do without a home. Explain that, without a home, having a healthy body may be much trickier and not necessarily a choice.

Option 2: Ask the children to discuss with a partner or in a small group how it might feel to be homeless. Write the following words on the board: lonely, helpless, afraid, angry. Add any other ideas the children might have.

- How could we show these feelings/emotions in a picture?
- What lines/colours/shapes do you associate with these feelings?

Ask the children to use paint to create a piece of artwork to show how being homeless might feel. Focus on the use of line, colour and shape rather than actually drawing a homeless person. Explain that their work will allow their audience to stop and think what it might be like to be homeless.



This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

<http://bit.ly/2CPD2sj>



This Week's Useful Videos

How can we help the homeless?

<http://bit.ly/2QiXoMX>

