

# Peace action

## Cyfarthfa High School

### Introduction

**Cyfarthfa High School, Merthyr Tydfil**, began work on the Welsh Centre for International Affairs' Peace school scheme by forming a core group of Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils looking at the values of the school and also how to involve everyone.

Assistant Head, Tracey Griffith said, "Visits to Cyfarthfa Museum to learn about conscientious objectors and also key figures in local history, such as Aneurin Bevan, was key. The Peace and Goodwill message from the children of Wales to the world also inspired them."

Supported by WCIA they put on a conscientious objectors Tribunal which helped them to put themselves in another's shoes. Peace and justice issues are brought into different areas of the curriculum, and in school assemblies, for example, diversity and rights.



PUPIL VOICES: ANDREW, TOMAS, COREY, JUDY, NATALIA, JENNY & SOLOMON

### Pupil Voices

"Its important to speak up because if we don't, who will?" said Corey Shemwell (Year 9). Pupils have been making their voices heard outside the school too. As a result pupils have been elected to the UK Youth Parliament, Wales Youth Assembly, as Youth Rep to Merthyr Council and deputy Mayor of the Merthyr Youth Council.

Natalia Nawara (Year 8) said: "Learning that some great women came from Merthyr, for example, pioneer linguist, Chartist supporter and educationalist, Charlotte Guest, shows we can do something too."

"Learning about conscientious objectors and how Wales welcomed immigrants in the past really influenced my views, and I see things differently," said Judy Morgan (Year 10)

"Article 12 of the Rights of the Child says we have the right to express our views on all matters affecting us and to have them taken seriously. I am preparing a presentation for my Explorer Scouts so that everyone can learn," said Solomon Entwistle (Year 9)

**Contact [centre@wcia.org.uk](mailto:centre@wcia.org.uk) to find out more about becoming a peace school.**



### Benefits, challenges and tips

#### What were the challenges?

Time, particularly time off the timetable, is always the problem. Working around exams and the summer holidays restricted us. There is much more we can do this coming year.

#### What benefits have you seen so far for the Volunteer Ambassadors and your School?

The Peace Ambassadors helped to create a respectful and collaborative atmosphere in the school. The Ambassadors personal enthusiasm for the school Pupil Voice and the need to participate has been infectious for the whole school. There is active engagement with the local Youth Council as well as many wanting to take part in other school initiatives such as the digital leaders and the Eco School Committee.

The Ambassadors ran a competition for a Peace Logo and the Peace pledge is now up in every room. The whole school is happier, more tolerant and more respectful.

#### What tips would you give to other organisations?

There are plenty of things that can be linked to the Peace School Scheme such as One World Week, International Day of Peace etc. Allowing the pupils to get involved and make decisions has led to our success.