



# POWER, CONFLICT & SUFFERING

**End point** - When children finish their curriculum at Moorthorpe Primary School, we intend for them all to:

- Understand how events in the natural world can lead to human suffering
- Show an awareness of how stereotypes and discrimination can lead to human suffering
- Identify important lessons from the past and act as an agent for positive change to better shape the future

## EYFS

In Early Years this theme is developed with stories and discussions that explore power dynamics, including fairy tales where the protagonist has to overcome an obstacle or face a challenge. The Gruffalo and Jack and the Beanstalk. We discuss with the children **the concept of power and how it can be used for good or bad**, and encourage them to think about ways they can use their own power to help others.

We also use play to explore **conflict resolution**, which is modelled by practitioners. We encourage children to play together and help them navigate conflicts that may arise, as well as by talking to them about how they feel and helping them to identify and name their emotions.

**Empathy** is an important skill for children to develop and can help them understand suffering. We encourage empathy by introducing activities that help children recognize and respond to the feelings of others. This can include activities such as role-playing, sharing stories, or even just taking turns and being kind to each other.

We also use real-world examples to explore power, conflict, and suffering. This includes stories from Newsround and Red Nose Day as well as experiences that children have had themselves. We encourage children to talk about what they think and feel about these situations and help them understand that it is normal to feel a **range of emotions in response to difficult situations**.

"The Rainbow Fish" by Marcus Pfister is a story that explores the **power of sharing and generosity**. We use stories like this to discuss the idea of power and how sharing can be a powerful act in itself.

## KSI

In Key Stage One, pupils learn about the role of Monarchy in our country and **how this power is used**. Pupils learn that the **kings and queens** of our country haven't always had such **limitations on their use of power**.

When studying Black British History, children learn about the **unfairness and suffering** caused to people in our country because of **discriminatory attitudes**. They learn that



## THEMES OF LEARNING



although people suffered greatly in the past, some people also suffer today for similar **unjust reasons**.

### LKS2

In Lower Key Stage Two, children begin to learn about the **human suffering** caused by Natural Disasters, such as volcanoes, earthquakes and floods. This is then linked with work on the Italy and the Romans when reading the book *Escape from Pompeii* as a narrative for **how the natural world can cause suffering**. The Romans also provide us with a context for looking at **how power was organised through its empire**, and how this is **different to power in modern-day Britain**. The thread of power in Britain can be followed through in to work on Pontefract Castle where the desire for kings and queens to keep hold of **power can impact on the rest of the population**.

When studying WW2, children explore how **discrimination led to human conflict and suffering** on a scale never seen before. The resulting impact of this period can be discussed in the Best of British when looking at the checks and balances we have in our country to **prevent power from being abused** in such a way.

### UKS2

The theme of **kings and queens involving themselves in conflict** in order to **retain or acquire power** is explored in the Wars of the Roses, which leaves children well placed to study the Tudors and beyond in the next stage of their education.

Topics such as Refugees and the Africa Study allow pupils to study **suffering caused by discrimination and conflict in more recent and current contexts** that they are able to relate to from their exposure to events in the news from around the world, and by novels such as *Journey to Jo'burg* and *The Boy at the Back of the Class*.

In the history-focused units on the Ancient Greeks and the Vikings & Anglo-Saxons, children are able to see **how power was organised** in these societies. Pupils will be able to identify **aspects of this organisation in modern-day Britain**.

### Enrichment

The theme Power, Conflict and Suffering is brought to life and made real to the children through a variety of experiences, including:

- Assemblies on, and response to, news events from around the world
- Assemblies on topics like Black History Month
- Our invested learning approach which has a focus on being rich in humanity and encouraging pupils to be empathetic