

# Holding to your values isn't always easy.



## Newham 8

Fundamental British values:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual respect.
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Which values from the list above were Newham young people upholding?
- Goga fought back when attacked, both in the school and later in the street. Were he and the others right to use violence?
- Self-defence is not against the law if reasonable force is used. Were the actions of Goga and the others going against *rule of law*?
- People – including students – have the right to strike but it is against the law for their parents to keep them away from school without good reason. Were the striking students or their parents going against *rule of law*?
- Why was the Newham 8 campaign successful?
- Here are two opinions: what do you think?

“If you think a law is wrong, don't break it: persuade people to get it changed.”

“If a law is unjust and does harm it can be right to refuse to obey it.”

### TASK

1. Think of one relevant question you would like to ask Goga or a student on strike.
2. Prepare an interesting way of sharing with the class this story and what you feel about it.

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## Let Natasha Stay

Fundamental British values:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual respect.
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Which values from the list above were the Year 7 class upholding?
- The government who wanted to deport Natasha's family were democratically elected and following the law. Does that mean the Year 7 campaign was going against 'British values'?
- Why was the 'Let Natasha Stay' campaign successful?
- Campaigns like 'Let Natasha Stay' are very rare. In 2017 nearly 13,000 people were deported from the UK, some of them children. If Natasha's classmates hadn't organised a campaign to let her stay, would they have been to blame for her family being deported?
- Here are two opinions. What do you think?

"Everyone coming to the UK because they are in fear for their lives should be allowed to stay."

"The right people to decide who should stay or leave are not the local community. Only the government has access to all the facts of a case."

### TASK

1. Think of one relevant question you would like to ask Shamima.
2. Prepare an interesting way of sharing with the class this story and what you feel about it.

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## Nasreen

Fundamental British values:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual respect.
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Which values from the list above were Nasreen and her family upholding?
- One of the 'British values' is *individual liberty*. Does that mean the men abusing Nasreen's family should have the right to free speech?
- Why did it take so long for something to be done?
- Newham Council offered to move Nasreen's family to live somewhere else. Were the family right to refuse?
- What should the police have done?
- Here are some opinions: what do you think?

"When a family are being harassed and abused, it is more important to get the family to safety than to take on the abusers."

"If you are a victim of abuse or hate crime and the authorities do nothing to help, it is right to take matters into your own hands."

### TASK

1. Think of one relevant question you would like to ask Nasreen.
2. Prepare an interesting way of sharing with the class this story and what you feel about it.

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## Asquith Xavier

Fundamental British values:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual respect.
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Which values from the list above was Asquith upholding?
- At that time UK law allowed the station employers to refuse a job to someone because of their skin colour. If *rule of law* is a 'British value', does that mean Asquith should have accepted the situation?
- Why did Asquith eventually succeed in getting the job?
- Asquith's fight for justice helped lead to a change in UK law, but most people in this country do not know his story. Stories of civil rights activists in the USA – such as Rosa Parks – are better known here. Why?
- Here are some opinions: what do you think?

"Laws are not always right. Sometimes you have to get them changed. Respect and tolerance are more important values than rule of law."

"The employers at Euston were not wrong. They acted within the law and they had to respect the views of the other workers who did not want to work alongside a Black person."

### TASK

1. Think of one relevant question you would like to ask Asquith.
2. Prepare an interesting way of sharing with the class this story and what you feel about it.

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## Keshia Thomas

Fundamental British values:

- Democracy.
- The rule of law.
- Individual liberty.
- Mutual respect.
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Which values from the list above was Keshia upholding?
- The man Keshia protected was part of the KKK whose beliefs go against *mutual respect* and *tolerance*. The KKK often murdered Black people. Was Keshia going against 'British values' by defending him?
- Keshia could easily have got badly hurt. The man she saved would not have done the same for her: he was part of a group that agreed with the murder of people looking like her. Was she brave, or taking a foolish risk?
- Some people criticised her actions saying the man did not deserve to be protected and protesters were right to chase after him. Here are some opinions: what do you think?
  - “People should organise and stand up against extremists who do not show respect for others or tolerance of different beliefs. Fighting racists is sometimes the only way to stop the spread of dangerous ideas.”
  - “Show love to your enemies: recognise that they are human too.”

### TASK

1. Think of one relevant question you would like to ask Keshia.
2. Prepare an interesting way of sharing with the class this story and what you feel about it.

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## Ruby Bridges and Barbara Henry

Fundamental British values:

- Democracy.
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- Which values from the list above were Ruby and Barbara upholding?
- Does the value of *individual liberty* mean that the white parents had the right to refuse to let their children have a Black child in their class?
- Why did Ruby get an education in spite of everything?
- Ruby's parents insisted that their daughter went to an all white school. As a result they suffered hardship – but so did Ruby. Were they wrong to put her through that?
- What made Barbara Henry support Ruby in the way she did?
- Here are some opinions: what do you think?
  - “Separate schooling based on race, religion, gender or wealth is wrong.”
  - “Parents – not government – should have the right to decide what kind of school their children go to.”

### TASK

1. Think of one relevant question you would like to ask Ruby or Barbara.
2. Prepare an interesting way of sharing with the class this story and what you feel about it.