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Othering within RVE

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The othering of groups in society is a significant topic that is covered in Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in my school. One Programme of Learning (POL) that tackles this as a whole is that of Martin Luther King Jnr that year 8 (12- to 13-year-olds) study, which uses the Baptist preacher as the spine of the work but uses various examples from the #BLM movement, and psychological studies from Stanley Milgram (The Study on Obedience) and Philip Zimbardo (The Stanford Prison Experiment).

This builds upon a year 7 POL (11- to 12-year-olds) which is based on The Island by Sue Phillips, where they begin to build a community and decide how a community works. In this they encounter several obstacles to their community, and they work out a way to stay a community without arguments or schisms. This, as well as the above POL, has been influenced by the works of Johnathan Sacks and his book Not in God’s Name.

This POL was a study conducted for my MA thesis which looked at a multi-disciplinary, cross-curricular approach to RVE which incorporated various historical and geographical skills as well as improving literacy using a short story to frame the topic, as well as other articles and sources.

The impact on the student has been hugely positive. The awareness of othering of society has been linked to genocides, civil wars, incels and other extremist views has increased, and students have been given the tools to combat this alongside the school’s schemes such as KIVA and Wellbeing Champions.

