

Active Citizenship Launch video, March 2019

As part of the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme CCEA has launched a new range of resources for Teaching Controversial Issues. We're here today to launch CCEA's new Active Citizenship resources. In it's simplest form Active Citizenship is participating in society and we would give examples of, even just voting can be seen to being a good active citizen. And for young people, we're trying to promote the idea that being an active citizen can support their communities as well even just actively helping other people as a way of being an active citizen. So we have two sets of resources that are being launched today and all of them are available on the CCEA website under the Key Stage Three Learning for Life and Work area. So the first set of resources are eight units of work with three lesson plans in each unit, one animation and teacher guidance and really that's looking at things like Lawfulness, Justice, The Role of the PSNI and being an active citizen and participating in your community and in society. They're aimed at Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four Learning for Life and Work teachers but there's a lot of the themes that might also be relevant to subjects like Religious Education English, Drama and Personal Development.

As soon as we saw the resources, as soon as Teresa showed them to us we thought right this is something we can use, went back to school and we tried them right across Key Stage Three and got a really, really positive response and when we went back to CCEA for the follow up meeting, it was additions and suggestions we were making rather than changes and rejection and really very, very happy to be integrating them into my programs for next year.

So the second set of resources have been devised in collaboration with Cinemagic and Cinemagic have created an amazing short film called The Stone's Throw. A Stone's Throw is a collaboration between Cinemagic and CCEA and it's a creation of both a short play and a film so the idea behind it was that we would create a piece that could be used for Citizenship alongside educational resources that CCEA would devise, so after a lot of research working with Department of Justice and looking at the End the Harm campaign and Tackling Paramilitarism we came up with this concept of a young boy called Jack who falls off the path a bit.

I think Active Citizenship and promoting a culture of lawfulness and very important parts of being a positive contribution, making a positive contribution in your community and I think all of this added together just really helps us all as a community be much more positive. Culture of lawfulness is about personal responsibility, it's accepting the rule of law and resources like this really help people engage and educate young people about their role in society and what they can do to make a positive contribution to it.

One of the things that teachers cry out for anyone controversial issues is that, well you provide me with the stuff and I'll do it well, CCEA has. You literally leave today with a lovely CCEA folder full of your stuff and you go in and start teaching it tomorrow morning.