

### Activity 3: Homeless Myth Buster

In this activity, pupils take part in a quiz on misconceptions about homelessness. This activity aims to counter some of the common myths and misconceptions about homelessness. The quiz provides information to increase pupils' knowledge and understanding of homelessness.

#### Preparation

Display **Resource 2.2: Homeless Myth Buster**.

#### Learning Intentions

Pupils will:

- explore and develop their understanding of homelessness;
- be aware of homelessness as a societal issue;
- begin to develop empathy for people experiencing homelessness;
- understand that people have negative attitudes;
- explore issues of prejudice and stereotypes; and
- know some factors that can cause people to become homeless.

#### Resource

**Resource 2.2: Homeless Myth Buster**

#### Vocabulary

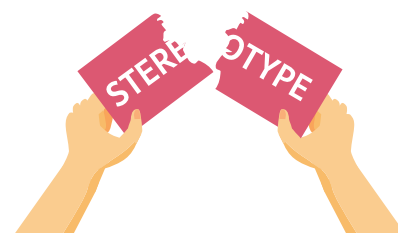
Hidden homeless, unhealthy, dangerous, stressful, organisations, charity

Open **Resource 2.2** on the whiteboard. Tell your class they are going to take part in a homelessness quiz. Show the first slide from the presentation. Ask your pupils to raise their hand if they think the person has ever been homeless. Ask different pupils for reasons for their decision. Display the next slide, revealing the correct answer.

#### Reflection

Continue this activity until you have shown all the slides. Then ask your pupils:

- Did anything in this quiz surprise you?
- What have you learned?
- Do you think stereotypes of those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness are true?
- Can anyone become homeless?
- Have you considered that those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness may have jobs?



## Realities of Homelessness

- Are those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness:
  - beyond help?
  - born homeless?
  - deserving of government help?

### Key Facts

Homelessness means having nowhere to live or no permanent place to call home.

People can be homeless if they are sleeping on the streets, staying with friends or family or in temporary accommodation such as a bed and breakfast.

Homelessness is an issue in Northern Ireland.

In 2021/22 there was a total of 15,758 households who presented as homeless with 10,135 of these households accepted as statutorily homeless.

Anyone can become homeless, including families, women, men and young or old people.

Homelessness can happen for many different reasons.

Every homeless person has a different story; there is not usually a single reason for becoming homeless.

It is important to remember that no one chooses to become homeless.