

# Let's Talk About Race

## Flourishing RE: Breaking Barriers and Creating Inclusive Spaces Where All Can Flourish

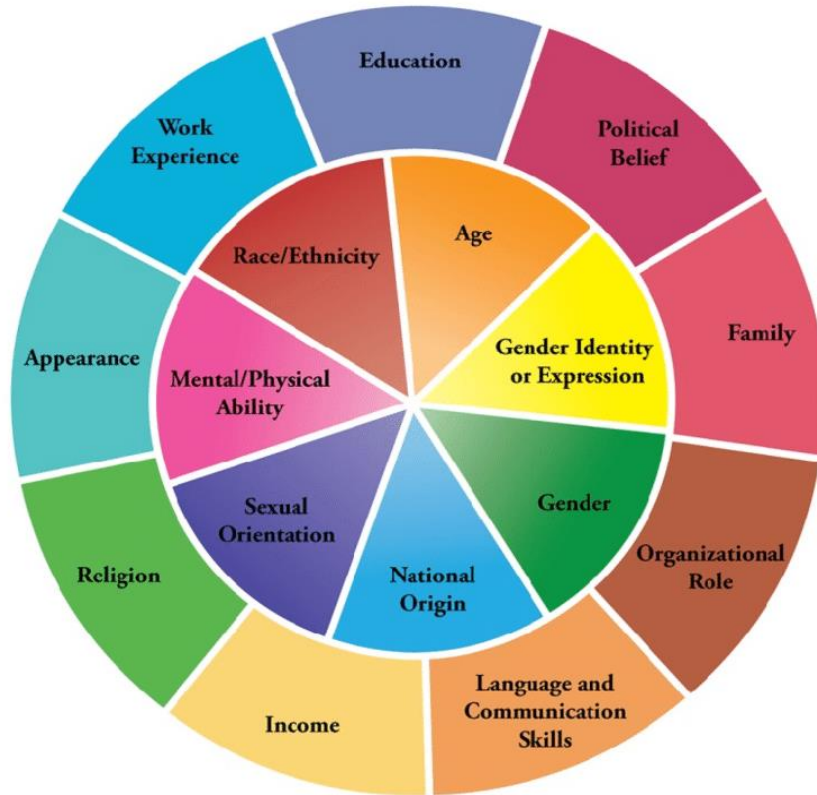
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National Education Lead for Racial Justice



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# Diversity: Who is in the room?



Have a look at the Diversity Wheel and reflect on all types of diversity that you feel comfortable/uncomfortable discussing.

# Getting comfortable with being uncomfortable...

Sometimes, discussions can feel uncomfortable.



**“That’s the only way this can be solved - by having uncomfortable conversations.”**

– Demi Stokes,  
England Women footballer

- How does talking about racism make you feel?
- Why might the conversations make some people feel uncomfortable?
- Talking about some things is uncomfortable. Does that mean we shouldn't talk about them? Can you give examples to support your answer?
- Does feeling uncomfortable about racism mean we should stop talking about it?

# Thinking Through Diversity



Accept

Embrace

Empower



## Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System

### Relationships

Our flourishing is dependent upon *who* we are with—together in community. As relational beings, the degree to which we value, honour, and care for each other—students, teachers, leaders, and families alike—impacts our mutual flourishing. School communities that are characterised by a sense of belonging are places where we can flourish together.

# The Danger of the Single Story



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# the danger of a SINGLE STORY

## Social Categorisation

One of the mental shortcuts we use in-person perception is social categorisation. In this process, we mentally categorise people into different groups based on common characteristics. Sometimes this process occurs consciously, but for the most part, social categorisations happen automatically and unconsciously. Some of the most common social categories are age, gender, occupation, and race.

-Kendra Cherry



The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.

— *Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie* —

# The Power of Stories



"Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower, and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people. But stories can also repair that broken dignity."

- Chimamanda Adichie

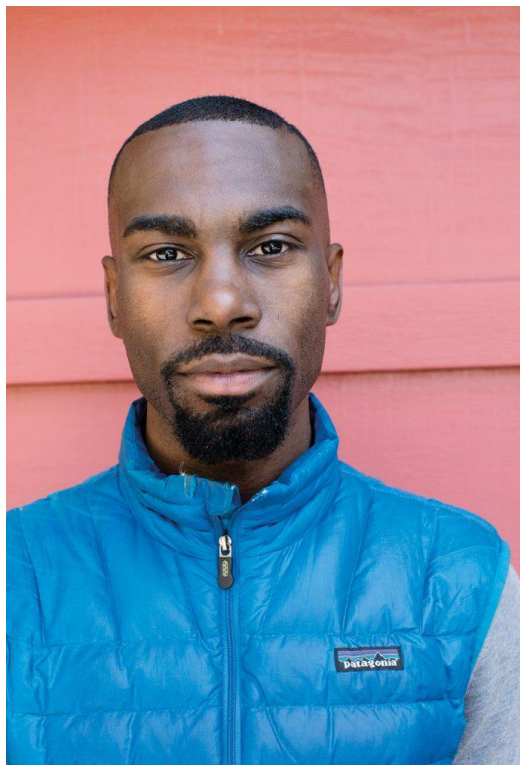
Which stories are we being told in our schools?

*Whose stories?*

*How are they told?*

Who is holding the pen?

Do the stories 'empower', 'humanize' and 'repair broken dignity'?



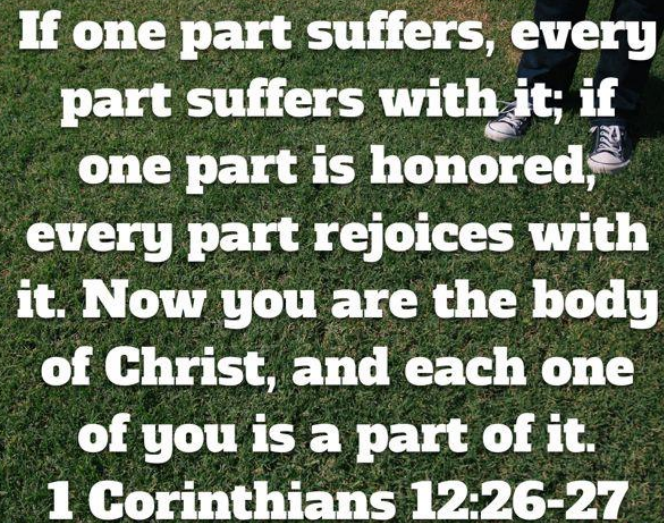
DeRay Mckesson

Diversity is  
bodies,  
inclusion is  
culture

**'Only when everyone flourishes will we all truly flourish together'**

What does it look like to 'suffer with...' those in our communities who are struggling?

Who in our communities do we need to honour and celebrate?



**If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**  
**1 Corinthians 12:26-27**

# Listening to Children and Young People

Listen without interruption

Listen without judgement

Listen with discernment

-Professor Paul Miller



# Psychological Safety within RE

What makes you feel seen?

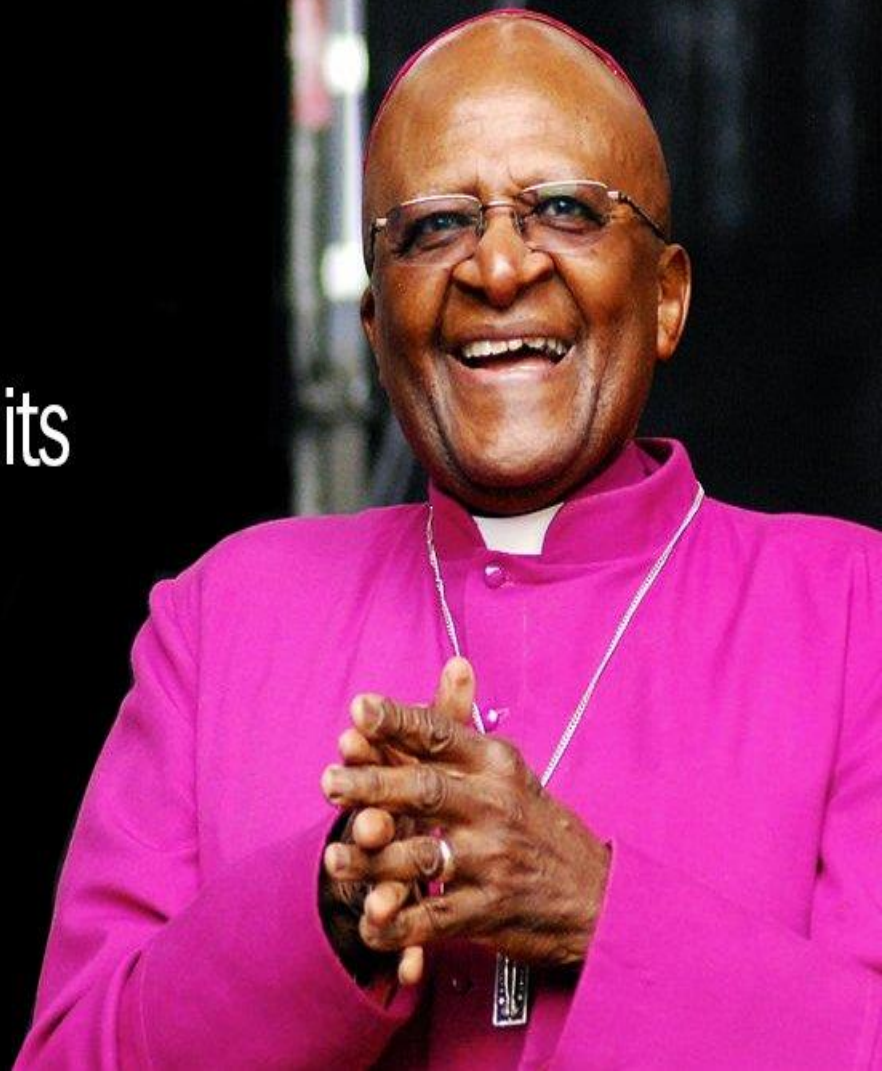
What makes you feel cherished?

What does it mean to you to be in a community with others?



Do your **little bit of good**  
where you are; its those little bits  
of good put together  
that **overwhelm the world.**

– *Desmond Tutu*



# Let's stay connected!

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