

STEPHEN
LAWRENCE
DAY 

STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY CLASSROOM RESOURCES

KS3

SLD26



STEPHEN'S STORY

JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND CHANGE

Today we will learn about Stephen Lawrence - a young man with big dreams whose story changed Britain.

This is a true story from modern British history. Stephen wanted to become an architect, but his life was cut short because of racism and an unfair system. His story continues to shape conversations about justice, equality and change.



STEPHEN'S STORY

FAIRNESS, COURAGE & CHANGE



Stephen Lawrence was a teenager who lived in south-east London. He loved football, art, and design. He dreamed of becoming an architect so that he could build a better community for future generations.

Stephen was ambitious, kind, and thoughtful, like many young people. He was close to his family and enjoyed time with his siblings and friends.

He was also a person who thought about his community, once running the London marathon to raise money for Great Ormond Street hospital.

His story is an important part of modern British history.

What hopes and dreams do young people your age have today?

How can young people make a positive difference in their community, like Stephen did?

WHAT IS RACISM?

Racism is when someone is treated unfairly or discriminated against because of their race, skin colour, or background.

Racism can happen in everyday behaviour, language, attitudes - and also within systems.

Racism harms individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

Why do you think racism is harmful beyond just the individual affected?





STEPHEN'S MURDER

One evening in April 1993, when Stephen was 18, he was attacked by a group of young men.

They didn't know him - he was targeted because of the colour of his skin. Stephen died as a result of this attack.

This was a racist murder that shocked people across the country.

FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

After Stephen died, his family were very brave and refused to give up. They spoke out and told the world what had happened, campaigning for justice.

At first, the people who attacked Stephen weren't punished. This was very unfair. However Stephen's parents, Doreen and Neville, didn't give up.

They worked with newspapers, lawyers, and campaigners to make sure people listened. Their fight for justice took many years, but it helped people see that racism had to be challenged.

Question to Class:
What does 'justice' mean to you?



WHAT WENT WRONG?

When Stephen was killed, the police didn't follow important clues, and they didn't listen carefully to Stephen's family. This delayed justice for years.

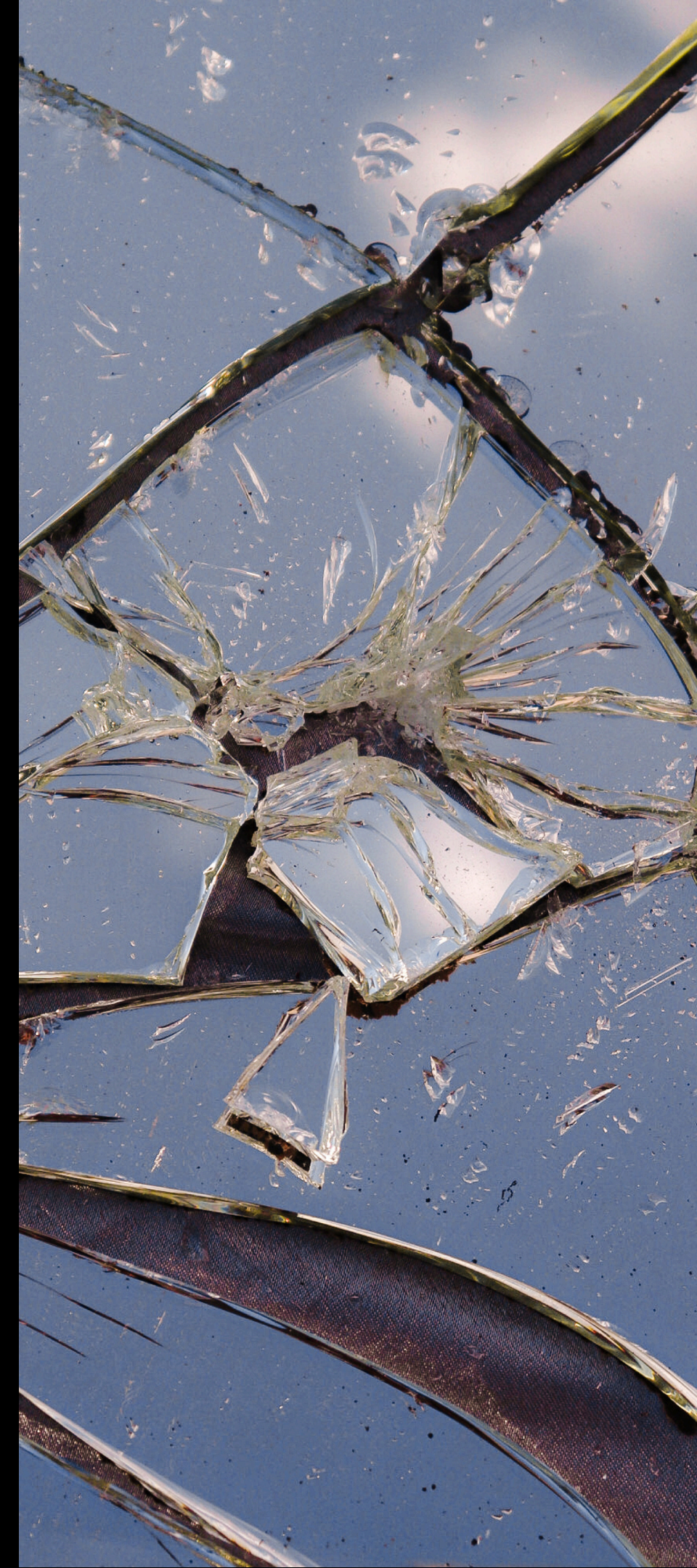
Sometimes racism isn't just about one person being unkind, it can also be part of how a whole organisation behaves.

This is called institutional racism. It means rules, systems, or the way people work together can be unfair to certain groups of people, even if not everyone in the organisation is racist. The investigation into Stephen's murder was later found to be affected by institutional racism (the Macpherson inquiry and report)

What do you think should happen when someone tells the police something important?

Why do you think it's unfair if a whole system makes it harder for some people?

How is institutional racism different from individual acts of racism?



CHANGE & LEGACY - BECAUSE OF STEPHEN

Stephen's story led to some major changes in Britain.

A public inquiry (the Macpherson Report) officially recognised institutional racism within the police. Laws were changed to make it easier to bring justice in cases like Stephen's.

People began to speak out more against racism.

Stephen's life and legacy have inspired classrooms, careers and communities.

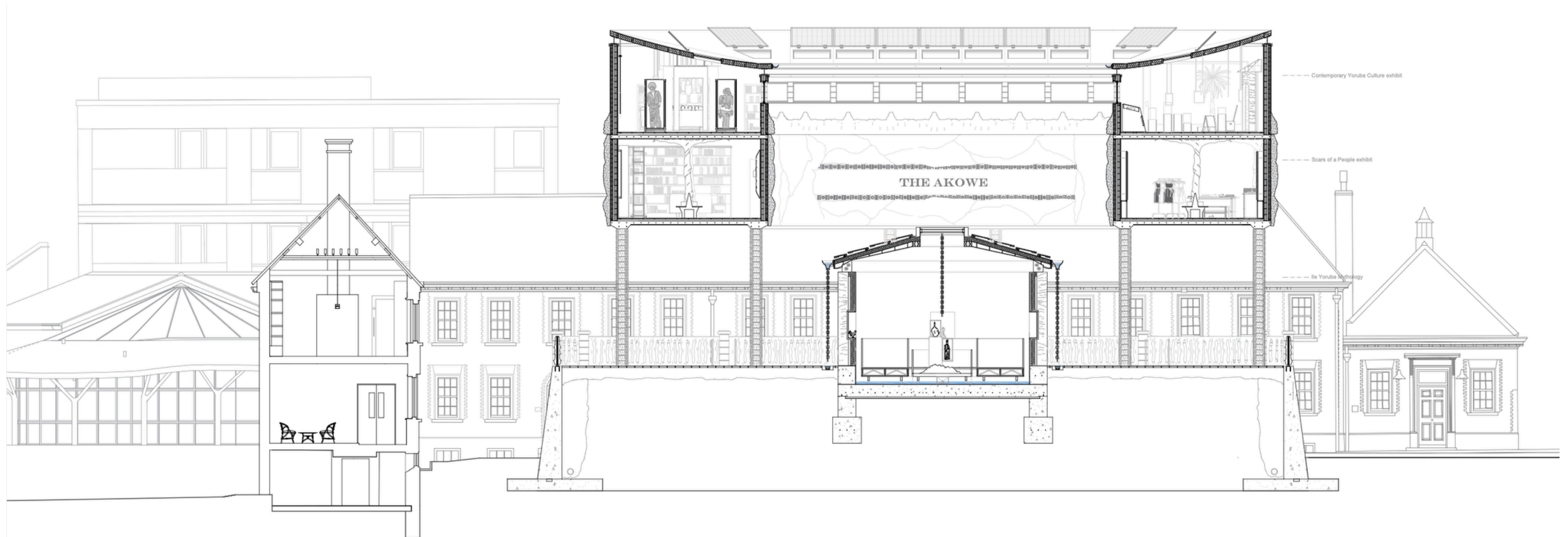
Discussion:

Why is it important that systems are willing to admit mistakes?



STEPHEN'S DREAM - ART ACTIVITY

Stephen wanted to be an architect — someone who designs buildings. His dream reminds us that every young person's hopes matter, and that we should help each other reach our goals.



Draw your very own dream building. Above is an example of an architectural drawing.

Drawing credit: Aaron Oshinmi

STEPHEN'S DREAM LIVES ON

Stephen Lawrence's story asks important questions of all of us.

Change often starts with ordinary people choosing to act.

Everyone has a role in challenging racism and supporting fairness.

Stephen's story encourages us to to be best we can be. Being the best you can be also mean helping create a fairer world.

What does "being the best you can be" mean to you?

What is one action you could take — in school or beyond — to help make society fairer?



THANK YOU FOR LEARNING ABOUT STEPHEN LAWRENCE & WHAT HIS LEGACY MEANS

SCAN TO DONATE



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