

# CROSS WORDS

**Age Group:** KS3&4

**Length of workshop:**  
approximately 1 hour

## Aims:

**During the workshop young people will:**

- explore the power of language in shaping attitudes and stereotypical ideas about groups of people in society
- consider acceptable and unacceptable terminology and the reasons why some terms are unacceptable
- recognise the impact of using unacceptable terminology and the role of language in the escalation of prejudice and discrimination
- explore the steps they can take if they experience or witness prejudicial language

**Preparatory work:** We examine the school's policies and guidance for responding to prejudice-related incidents, to ensure that all guidance provided during the workshop tallies with the school's procedures. Where required, we can deliver whole staff training on recognising and responding to prejudice-related incidents and provide support in strengthening these policies and guidance documents prior to working with the young people, which ensures that every teacher is aware of the steps to take should a prejudice-related incident occur. This ensures that the school adopts a consistent approach to eradicating the use of prejudice-related language in the school.

## Format of the session:

At the beginning of the session facilitators create a safe space and put a language amnesty in place, ensuring that the young people know that whilst they are allowed to use language which may be offensive during the workshop, they must always use it with respect.

During the session, young people have their concerns about the language addressed. They learn that it is OK to mention difference, and work through the correct words to use to describe people's ethnicity. They then explore the use of language in different contexts and learn the reasons why certain words and phrases are inappropriate and should not be used, together with the consequences for using prejudicial language in school. The session finishes with illustrations of how inappropriate language can create the foundations for prejudice and bullying.

At the end of the session, the language amnesty is closed and all inappropriate language remains in the room after the young people have left.

The school will be provided with a link to a hidden page on our website with specially tailored resources on terminology and how to recognise and respond effectively to the use of prejudice-related language by students and staff.

**Sample PowerPoint Slides from Cross Words**

