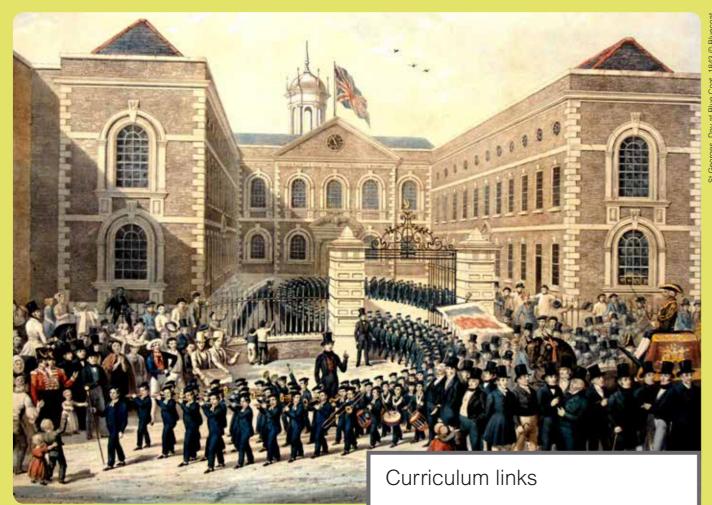
Project 07

# **Blue Coat School on strike**



# Summary

Pupils will look at an event that took place at Blue Coat School in 1800 when over a hundred pupils ran away. They will consider the role of young people in strikes and protests in Liverpool's history and consider how they can be empowered to make their opinions and voices heard.

## Duration

Core activity: 1 x 1 hour session Extension activity: 2 x 1 hour sessions

## Aims and Outcomes

- Pupils will have learned about the history of Liverpool and events that took place in the past
- Pupils will have learned about the Human **Rights Act**

Powerpoints and resources available at www.mybluecoat.org.uk

## History

Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past

Local history study

## Citizenship

Developing confidence and responsibility and making the most of their abilities

## English

Planning their writing by:

Discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write, in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar

Discussing and recording ideas

Noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary

## Art

To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials

## Background

St George's Day (23rd April) was always cause for no punishment, they were also rewarded with more leisure celebration at the Blue Coat School. Every year pupils time and toys. This event took place over two hundred years would parade through the city, carrying a banner, ago but there are more recent examples of children going accompanied by the school's brass band. In 1800 however, on strike and protesting in Liverpool to make changes and there was great disruption to the celebrations when over a get their voices heard. hundred pupils ran away and effectively went on strike. In 1985, 30,000 young people went on strike, many Many did not return for several days, and there were even with the support of their teachers, to protest against the incidents of vandalism, with an account entered in the government's Youth Training Scheme. The Youth Training school's records that one boy smashed the window of a Scheme involved on-the-job training courses for school local shop. You would imagine, given the high expectations leavers aged 16 and 17. The government thought the of good behaviour at this time that pupils expected severe scheme was a good way to get unemployed young people punishment for their adventure but this was not the case. into work but the young people who protested felt it forced them to do work they didn't want to do for very little money. Instead, it was decided by the governors of the school to give them longer break times and that some of the money They met outside St George's Hall and marched through which had been raised by donations should be used to buy the city, ending at the Pier Head. When the government eventually changed some aspects of the scheme the more toys for the pupils. If these hundred pupils ran away from the school in strikers felt that their voices had been heard and that the protest had had some effect.

protest at the treatment they were receiving we might consider them extremely successful. Not only did they receive

## Activity

#### Starter guestion

These questions will assess the pupils' prior knowledge and also alert you to any possible difficulties or sensitive topics.

What is a strike? Do you know who goes on strike?

## Core activity

Our research tells us there were many rules that the School had to follow. Using these rules and looking at the Human Rights Act, pupils should write their own class charter.

## **Extension activity**

1. Protesting is about making your voice and opinions heard. You have to be able to persuade people to listen to you and appreciate your point of view. The pupils will choose a piece of artwork that has been exhibited at Bluecoat and write a persuasive piece about it.

2. Placards, signs and banners are often used to signify the identity of a group and in protests to show people what the protest is about and what the important issues are. Pupils will make their own placard, sign or banner inspired by the work of photographer, David Sinclair, who documented the 1985 School Students' strike.



#### End guestions

These questions will ask pupils to reflect on what they have learnt and ask them to apply this knowledge to the world today.

What is a protest?

What does it mean when people talk about their 'rights'?

What does it mean when people talk about their 'responsibilities'?

## Think About

- Do you know anyone who might remember the strike in 1985?
- Can you imagine how the pupils who were part of the 1985 strike might have felt?

#### Talk About

- Has there been an occasion where you have felt very strongly about something and wanted to do something to change it?
- Do you think it's important for young people to talk about their thoughts and feelings?

If you enjoyed this resource you might want to look at Indentures, Child Labour or Art and Society



Powerpoints and resources available at www.mybluecoat.org.uk