Collective Worship

Secondary Assembly
What is modern slavery?

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

Slavery

Just Enough UK and The Clewer Initiative

Aims

- **Pupils will consider what they can do to help create a slave free world**
- **Pupils will learn about modern slavery and the impact it has in our lives**
- **Pupils will become aware of the scale of modern slavery around the world.**

Preparation

This collective worship doesn't require any preparation.

Collective Worship

Today we are going to start by looking at freedom and what it means.

> For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Galatians 5:13**

Jesus died to bring justice to the world. As a response to his sacrifice, we should use our freedom to do good in the world, and to love one another.

Anyone who takes away another person's freedom is not someone to admire, respect or agree with.

Freedom is a human right. When a person takes away someone else's freedom, and subjects them to working in awful conditions, exploiting them, hurting them, threatening and abusing them, they are putting that person in modern slavery.

What is slavery?

Slavery is the exploitation of others. It is a condition of having to work very hard without proper remuneration or appreciation. It is being bought, or sold. It is the state of being a slave and having no freedom. Slavery is illegal in every country. The last country to make it illegal was Mauritania in 1981. Slavery has been illegal in the UK since 1833.

What is modern slavery?
Modern slavery is slavery that happens today.

Modern slavery is seen all around the world in every country and yet we may not hear much about it.

Modern slavery is a billion pound industry, the second most profitable form of crime in the world.
It is estimated that over £150 billion is made every single **year** by people selling others, 'owning' people and forcing people to work.

Why does this happen?

There is a high demand for cheap products in countries such as the UK. In order to keep products cheap, companies try to outsource the work to other countries where work regulations are not as easily controlled.

In these situations many people, including maybe you and me, accept that 'it's just the way it is' or that 'something is better than nothing'. We as a school and as a country have to take a stand and make the world realise that it **doesn't have to be this way.**

Today, there are 40.3 million people held in modern slavery. 24.9 of those are considered to be in forced labour. That means they are bring forced to work in demeaning and degrading conditions.

> Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless and see that they get justice.
>
> **Proverbs 31: 8-9**

> In **Proverbs 31:8-9** it reads: 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless and see that they get justice.

Take a moment to think: Would you stand up for someone who was being held in one of the following situations?

- Coal miners in Ghana who are not paid
- Gold miners in India who are not paid
- Farm workers in the UK who are not paid
- Domestic servitude workers in Saudi Arabia who are not paid

There have been slaves found in each of these kinds of work. They don't get money for their work, or they do not get paid the wage they should. They work long hours, every day sometimes. They live in awful housing conditions, they never get time to go out and have fun, they may be abused.

We need to speak up.

The way we are going to be able to speak up is by having a collective voice. You can make everyone you know aware of modern slavery and what we can do about it.

Our other collective voice is our consumer voice. We have a lot of control over what we buy.

If we went through our wardrobes, fridges and beauty cabinets, would we know where each of our possessions came from? Would we know where it was made, or the process it went through to end up in our house?

Modern slavery can be seen in the supply chain of the following products:

- Food - farming in different countries and in the UK can use cheap labour where workers are paid much lower than the minimum wage.
- Technology - there have been reported cases of children mining the raw materials used for computers and mobile phones
- Clothing - It has been widely reported that cheap clothes often mean there is a high chance that slave labour has been used to sew them. However, even going back as far as the production of the materials in the first place: workers can be exploited (e.g. the silk industry).
- Beauty Products - Often, beauty products and the packaging that they come in can be made by workers being paid lower than expected, or not paid at all.

Have you heard of Fairtrade? Fairtrade was set up to protect farmers working without receiving the correct compensation for their work.

Not only does it do that but it ensures that the conditions of the workers are fair, and ensures sustainability in the areas that need it the most. It provides a foundation for all farmers to sell their products in a safe and fair way.

Let me ask you this question: If a product is not Fairtrade, what is it?

Potentially? Slave trade.

In the shelves of the supermarket, the food labelled ‘fair trade’ should not be the rarity, it should be labelled instead when food is **not** fair trade. The norm should be that people are paid fairly.

The important thing to realise is that we are not just talking about a ‘bad job’ or not having opportunities. This is about people who are working, potentially, every day of their lives, with no reward and no way to escape. They may not even know they are slaves.

I want to tell you a story about some workers in India. They worked in a brick kiln. Mothers, fathers, children, whole families would be working in this brick kiln. Sometimes, because of a debt accrued by a relative, some children will have been born into debt, and will not know a life outside of working in this brick kiln.

Fortunately, they were rescued by Free the Slaves. But then they had to decide what to do next. They decided to get their own brick kiln license so that they can continue doing the work they know. The only difference is now they are paid for it and can make a profit themselves!

We can put pressure on companies to try and solve these problems. So that the products we buy do not have slavery in their supply chain. We can support companies who have already done this. Those who hold others in slavery want to make money, if we can stop them making money by not buying their products then we can help start a culture change for the future, ensuring more people are safe and can live life to the full.

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:17

We can believe that in the future the world will be free of slavery, but we also have to make sure that each and every one of us starts action towards that goal. If we are Christians, part of our faith should be advocating for those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

'So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.' **James 2:17**

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

'And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' **Colossians 3:17**

God helps us know right from wrong and gives us strength to do what is right.

The great thing is that people are making a stand, newspapers are finding out about slavery and reporting on it. People are protesting and demanding change. Let's be part of that change.

Let's help everyone reach their potential and help them win their freedom.

Freedom Prayer

Voice 1
On this holy ground of worship
In this sacred place of prayer
We have heard the voice of freedom
Crying 'Let my people go.'

All
Father/God of freedom,
Who leads us into life,
Deliver us from every evil:
And make of us
Deliverers of others.

Freedom Prayer

Voice 2
Where chains restrain God's chosen children
Where humans trade in kin and skin
May our words pass on your promise
Of a land where liberty is sweet

All
Father/God of freedom,
Who leads us into life,
Deliver us from every evil:
And make of us
Deliverers of others.

Freedom Prayer

Voice 3
Give us faith to face the Pharaohs
Who line their pockets from this plague
Send us as salvation's sponsors
Willing servants; slaves to love

All
Father/God of freedom,
Who leads us into life,
Deliver us from every evil:
And make of us
Deliverers of others.

JUST ENOUGH GROUP...
WESEEYOU.
THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

Now let's all recite the freedom prayer together.