



Introduction

Overview of CND Peace Education

Was President Truman justified in ordering the atomic-bombing of Japan? What would you do if you were leader of the US, Cuba, or the Soviet Union during the Cuban Missile Crisis? What are pressure groups, and what would yours focus on?

CND Peace Education – the education programme of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament – engages thousands of school students across England with questions like these each year. We aim to empower students with knowledge on the hugely important and controversial issues of nuclear weapons and peace, so they can make up their own mind. Our work is particularly relevant at the moment, given the current nuclear tensions – particularly between North Korea and the US.

We offer free, cross-curricular workshops and an assembly, catering to Years 3 to 13. We also have five free teaching packs, thousands of which are downloaded or requested as hard copies annually. We encourage critical thinking through creative and collaborative learning methods such as role-play, group presentations, debates, and origami.

2016-17 academic year in summary

This report outlines the achievements of CND Peace Education (hereafter 'CNDPE') in the academic year 2016-17, as well as noting some of the challenges. The report is divided into three main parts: Outreach, Delivery, and Conclusion & Recommendations.

Despite its relatively small size, CNDPE continues to engage a remarkable number of school and college students. In 2016-17 we delivered workshops and talks to approximately 4000 young people, through 56 sessions in 50 schools and colleges. This is slightly more than the previous year. In addition, we delivered our 'teaching controversial issues' CPD session to around 180 trainee teachers at nine different universities/colleges. This was a decrease compared to the previous year, due mainly to the smaller cohort size of some PGCE courses.

The feedback on the sessions was even better than in previous years: 85% of students said our session was 'very' or 'extremely' good/engaging, and 94% would like us back to deliver another session. 92% of teachers said our sessions were 'very' or 'mostly' engaging for their students, and 100% would recommend us to colleagues. 100% of trainee teachers said our CPD sessions were 'very' or 'extremely' good/engaging, and 94% would like us to deliver another.¹

Our teaching resources remain very popular, too: over 1000 hard copies of our five packs were

¹ It is not always possible to get students to fill in feedback forms (e.g. due to time constraints, or after assemblies - when there are too many students). The percentages have been calculated from all forms filled in in 2016-17: by 813 students, 45 teachers, and 90 trainee teachers.

distributed by post and at education conferences, and the resources were downloaded more than 6000 times.

The main challenge CNDPE faced was limited staff capacity: with just one member of paid staff², some aspects of the strategy and workplan - such as the programme's spread into new schools and new regions - were hindered or postponed. It is hoped that we will see increased funding in 2017-19, allowing for the staff team to be expanded.

Outreach

Education conferences

In 2016-17 we exhibited at the following conferences:

- Northern History Forum (Leeds, 1 evening)
- NASUWT (Manchester, 3 days)
- Historical Association (Manchester, 2 days).
- NUT YTC (Grantham, June, 1 day)
- NATE (National Association for the Teaching of English conference, Nottingham, June, 2 days)
- ACT (London, July, 1 day)

We had good engagement at each conference, and new bookings were generated as a result of each.

Print outreach

We had half-page adverts published in:

- Teach Secondary magazine (which is distributed to all schools in England and Wales, and 1000s of copies were distributed at the 2017 Education Show in Birmingham. The ad was accompanied by a glowing review of our latest teaching pack, Dial M For Missile)
- Education & Public Sector supplement (digital magazine)

Online outreach

Social media: We published several Facebook posts and Tweets each week, promoting our school sessions, teaching resources, and teacher training sessions. The number of both our Twitter followers and Facebook likes increased during the 2016-17 academic year.

² In December 2016 the Peace Education Officer, Jac Bastian, left the organisation to take up an education role at another non-profit organisation. His replacement, Owen Everett, started in January 2017. From March 2017 Owen was supported in the office one day per week by a volunteer Admin Assistant.

Peace Education email list: The half-termly updates to the CNDPE email list (c2850 members, mostly teachers) were opened by around 400 people each time. A substantial proportion of the year's bookings were a result of the email list (teachers usually join it after our school and CPD sessions, and after meeting us at conferences).

Schools Competition

Unfortunately there was not enough capacity to run the schools writing competition in 2017, and it was decided that it would also be unfeasible in 2018.

Delivery

School Speaker Network

The School Speaker Network grew from seven to nineteen active School Speaker volunteer over the academic year. The two new cohorts are mostly comprised of people based outside of the south-east of England, which will help our expansion in the Midlands, the North-West and elsewhere.

We held a very successful refresher training day in May 2017.

School and college sessions

We delivered workshops and talks in 50 schools and colleges, engaging approximately 4000 young people through 56 sessions. This is slightly more than the previous year. Around 1/3 of sessions were delivered by School Speaker volunteers, and around 1/4 involved shadowing.

The feedback on the sessions was even better than in previous years: 85% of students said our session was 'very' or 'extremely' good/engaging, and 94% would like us back to deliver another session. 92% of teachers said our sessions were 'very' or 'mostly' engaging for their students, and 100% would recommend us to colleagues (see page 1 footnote for more information).

Some students and teachers provided us with a quote for our marketing. Recent examples include:

'Fun, interesting and engaging. The best kind of session.' –Year 10 student, The Hamble School, Southampton

'I love it and want to learn more about it.' – Year 10 student, Southfields Academy, London

'I enjoyed it lots... It couldn't be any better' - Year 9 student, Rainhill High School

'There was a buzz about the 'Bomb Factor'... The staff and students were impressed by the informative but balanced views' - RE teacher, Sturminster Newton High School, Dorset (on The Bomb Factor)

Teacher Training

We delivered our 'teaching controversial issues' CPD session to around 180 trainee teachers at nine different universities/colleges. This was a decrease compared to the previous year, due mainly to the smaller cohort size of some PGCE courses.

The feedback remained excellent: 100% of the trainees said our sessions were 'very' or 'extremely' good/engaging, and 94% would like us to deliver another. Written feedback includes:

'Very informative and impartial... perfect' - PGCE English teacher, Goldsmiths

These sessions are very effective outreach for us: a significant proportion of bookings result directly from them, and participants are always pleased to take away copies of our free teaching packs.

Resources

In the Autumn Term, we updated two of our five teaching packs: The Bomb Factor and Under Pressure. In the Spring and Summer Terms we updated Truman On Trial. We also identified which of our resources were doing less well, and began planning ways to promote them more effectively.

Conclusion and Recommendations

2016-17 was another successful year for CNDPE: we achieved a remarkable amount given our small size. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Nuclear Education Trust for continuing to support the work, and to all our funders and other supporters.

The main constraint is our limited staff capacity. The programme would benefit hugely from having a bigger staff team. CNDPE would therefore recommend that CND seeks funding for a new paid member of staff, and would encourage any potential donors to get in touch!

Find out more, and see photos from our sessions

To book us for a free student or CPD session at your school, or to find out more, go to www.cnduk.org/education. To browse/download our free teaching packs, go to www.tes.com/member/PeaceEducation.

To see photos of our school sessions, conference exhibitions, and School Speaker training, see our Twitter (www.twitter.com/CNDPeaceEd) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/CNDPeaceEducation).