

COLIN BARNES
PRESIDENT OF THE WEA

GOVERNOR
POLICY MAKER
STUDENT



Workers' Educational Association

EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL PURPOSE

THE APPROACH WITHIN THE WEA



WEA ESTABLISHED IN 1903 FROM SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

3 FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

- ATTRACTIVE AND RELEVANT
TO WORKING CLASS PEOPLE
 - HIGH EDUCATIONAL
STANDARDS
- DEMOCRACY IN CLASSROOM
AND ORGANISATION



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THE PRINCIPLES REMAIN AS ASPIRATIONS

WHAT CHANGES IS OUR:
APPROACH

INTERPRETION

DEFINITIONS

COTEXT WE WORK WITHIN



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SOCIAL MOVEMENTS CHANGE OVER TIME AS DOES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM

- BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS
 - WOMENS' MOVEMENT
 - LGBT
 - ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
 - TRADE UNIONS
 - UNEMPLOYED STRUGGLES
 - HEALTH CAMPAIGNS
 - HOUSING
 - CITIZENSHIP
 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
 - CHALLENGING INEQUALITY



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OUR VISION

"A BETTER WORLD - EQUAL,
DEMOCRATIC AND JUST;
THROUGH ADULT EDUCATION
THE WEA CHALLENGES AND
INSPIRES INDIVIDUALS,
COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETY"



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WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SOCIAL PURPOSE?

- UNDERSTANDING WHAT SOCIETY IS LIKE NOW, HOW IT CAME TO BE AS IT IS AND HOW IT MIGHT BE CHANGED
- EQUIPPING STUDENTS TO CHANGE SOCIETY; LEARN TO THINK 'RESPONSIBLY' - STAND BY THE RESULTS OF THEIR THINKING IN ACTION AS WELL AS IN ARGUMENT
- DOING THIS THROUGH THE SUBJECTS WE TEACH NOW NOT INVENTING A WHOLE NEW CURRICULUM



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NOTHING NEW IN THIS WORLD

S.G. RAYBOULD (1949) - “ I SUGGEST THAT IT MEANS EDUCATION WHICH HELPS STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY LIVE, AND TO CHANGE IT IN WAYS WHICH SEEM TO THEM DESIRABLE.”

GREG COYNE – WEA QUALITY DIRECTOR. SOCIAL PURPOSE EDUCATION IS A SET OF EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES WHICH WORK FROM ANY AND ALL WEA SUBJECTS TO ENABLE TUTORS AND STUDENTS TO CO-CREATE UNDERSTANDINGS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THEIR WORLD FROM A MORE CRITICAL POINT OF VIEW,
DEVELOP GREATER APPRECIATION OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CONTEXTS WHICH IMPACT ON THEM AND THEIR SUBJECT OF STUDY ,
ENCOURAGE THE CLASS, AS A GROUP TO ACT TOGETHER TO MAKE A SMALL CHANGE FOR THE BETTER TO THEIR COMMUNITY AS A RESULT OF THEIR STUDY.

RAYMOND WILLIAMS - THE PURPOSE OF ADULT EDUCATION IS TO CRITIQUE THE PREVAILING STATUS QUO.



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SOCIAL NOT INDIVIDUAL

“MAN IS BY NATURE A SOCIAL ANIMAL; AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS UNSOCIAL NATURALLY AND NOT ACCIDENTALLY IS EITHER BENEATH OUR NOTICE OR MORE THAN HUMAN. SOCIETY IS SOMETHING THAT PRECEDES THE INDIVIDUAL. ANYONE WHO EITHER CANNOT LEAD THE COMMON LIFE OR IS SO SELF-SUFFICIENT AS NOT TO NEED TO, AND THEREFORE DOES NOT PARTAKE OF SOCIETY, IS EITHER A BEAST OR A GOD.” ARISTOTLE



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LEARNING SOCIALLY

- KNOWLEDGE IS GENERATED SOCIALLY.
- MUCH OF OUR NOTIONS OF SELF, OF OTHER AND OF THE WORLD ARE SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED
- OF COURSE WE ALL FIND OUT THINGS INDIVIDUALLY
- BUT WE UNDERSTAND BETTER, BUILD OUR NARRATIVES, THROUGH INTERACTION, DISCUSSION AND DIALOGUE
- IT IS WHY CLASSROOMS WORK.
- IT IS WHY THE WEA WANTS TO USE OUR CLASSROOMS TO CRITICALLY EVALUATE THE STORIES OF OUR LIVES



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ACTING SOCIALLY

- WEA SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO LEARN TO KNOW
- BUT ALSO AND CRUCIALLY TO LEARN TO DO
- TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR SOCIETY
- ENCOURAGING THIS THROUGH SMALL BITE SIZE ACTION THAT THE CLASS UNDERTAKES AS A RESULT OF THEIR NEW STUDIES AND UNDERSTANDINGS



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THE THEMES WE WORK THROUGH

- COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
- EMPLOYABILITY
- HEALTH AND WELLBEING
- CULTURE
- HOW DO WE USE THEM TO DEVELOP SOCIAL PURPOSE?



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COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE THAT RECORDS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND RECORDS IT ON THE LOCAL CENTRE WEBSITE.
- COMMUNITY ARTS THAT BUILD A MURAL, AN EXHIBITION OR AN INSTALLATION
- HEALTHY EATING THAT PROVIDES A COMMUNITY BASED DAY OF MEALS ON WHEELS FROM THEIR PRODUCE
- GARDENING THAT RE-PRESENTS A RUNDOWN PUBLIC SPACE
- CAKE DECORATING THAT RAISES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE BEES
- WEDDING ART THAT PRODUCES A VOLUNTARY GROUP SUPPORTING COMMUNITY WEDDINGS



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EMPLOYABILITY

- VOLUNTARY SECTOR BUSINESS
- EDUCATION FOR JOBS AS WELL AS FOR LEARNING
- FROM COMMUNITY NEED TO COMMUNITY LED SOCIAL AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS FROM ANSWERING A COMMUNITY NEED
- RE-BUILDING SKILLS FROM ARTS AND CRAFTS, PRACTICAL COURSES, IT & SOCIAL MEDIA
- SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & COOPS



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HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- COMMUNITY HEALTH MATTERS OR MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS
HEALTH ACTIVISTS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL
- HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET
GOOD FOOD COSTS MORE –WHY AND HOW DO WE RESPOND
- COUNSELLING
WHY DO WE INDIVIDUALISE OUR PROBLEMS
- EXERCISE AND FOOD
GROWING HEALTH INEQUALITIES



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CULTURE

- HISTORY IS OUR OWN AND ALL AROUND US. RECORDING OUR PAST
- RE-CREATING OUR MUSIC AND OUR LIVES (SOUND TRACKS AND SOUNDSCAPES)
- UNDERSTANDING OUR WORLD THROUGH VICTORIAN LITERATURE
- MAKING & DISPLAYING OUR OWN ART
- THE BEAUTIFUL GAME



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HOW

- STARTING THE DISCUSSION
- USING THE HOOKS IN YOUR SUBJECT
- UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND US
 - WORDS, PICTURES, PHOTOS, VIDEO, ART WORKS, GARMENTS, FOOD, LANGUAGES SPOKEN, MUSIC, BUILDINGS, RELIGION
- FINDING THINGS OUT
 - SURVEYS, INTERVIEWS, STATISTICS, GRAPHS,
 - STUDENTS DOING RESEARCH AND REPORTING BACK THEIR FINDINGS



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PART 2

- ACTIVE NOT PASSIVE LEARNING
LETTING STUDENTS TALK NOT
TEACHERS
ACTIVITIES NOT LECTURES
- LINKING THREADS TOGETHER
QUESTIONING CULTURE &
DISCUSSION
STUDENT HOMEWORK, DISCOVERY
AND PRESENTATION
- TUTORS FINDING AND BRINGING IN
RELEVANT AND STRETCHING
INFORMATION
SETTING CHALLENGING CONTEXTS



FOR WHAT

- CRITICAL SOCIALLY AWARE STUDENTS WHO FEEL CONFIDENT TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN CHANGING COMMUNITIES
- IN THE PROCESS THEY CHANGE THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR WORLD.
- GREAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT TRANSFORM
- LEARNING FOR A SOCIAL PURPOSE



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KEY LESSONS

- A WHOLE ORGANISATION APPROACH
- ALIGNED VISION. STRATEGY AND PRACTICE
- THEORETICAL /PEDOGIC BACKGROUND
- REVIEW, REDEFINE AND TRAIN
- ESTABLISH HIGH STANDARDS
- DEMOCRACY
- LINK WITH SOCIAL MOVEMENTS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOUR STUDENTS



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THANKS

JOL MISKIN - REGIONAL EDUCATION
MANAGER (YORKSHIRE)

GREG COYNE –DIRECTOR OF
QUALITY

ANN CREED – STRATEGY MANAGER

MATT LIVING STONE – PROJECT
MANAGER



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