
Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe

Managing Controversial Issues

Joint programme

**“Democratic and Inclusive School Culture in Operation”
(DISCO)**

10 October 2019 Brussels

Ted Huddleston, Young Citizens, UK

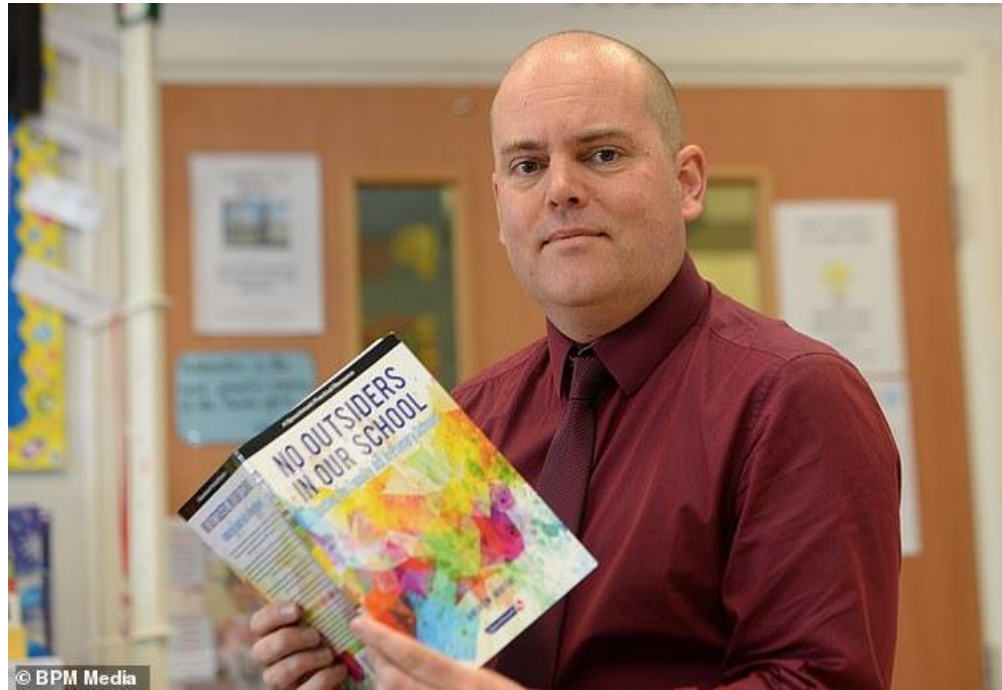
What's the problem?

Parkfield Community School, Birmingham, UK

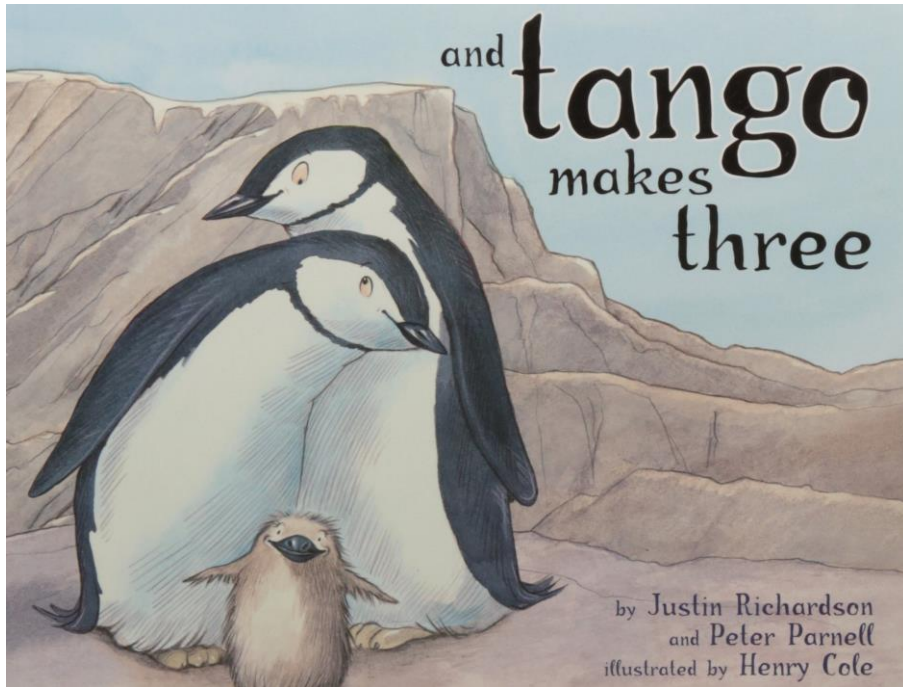


- 'No outsiders' programme
- Equality Act
- Includes sexual orientation
- Praised by OFSTED 2016

Award for services to equality and diversity in education 2017



Books used in the programme include ...



...stories about a dog that doesn't feel like it fits in, two male penguins that raise a chick together and a boy who likes to dress up like a mermaid

Parents' petition objecting to the programme



Protests outside the school gates



Parents take children out of school



“Extremists travelled to city to exploit Parkfield School LGBT row, warns counter hate chief”



Sarah Khan

Lead Commissioner for Counter
Extremism

How should the school react?

Colston's Girls' School, Bristol, UK - "Outstanding"

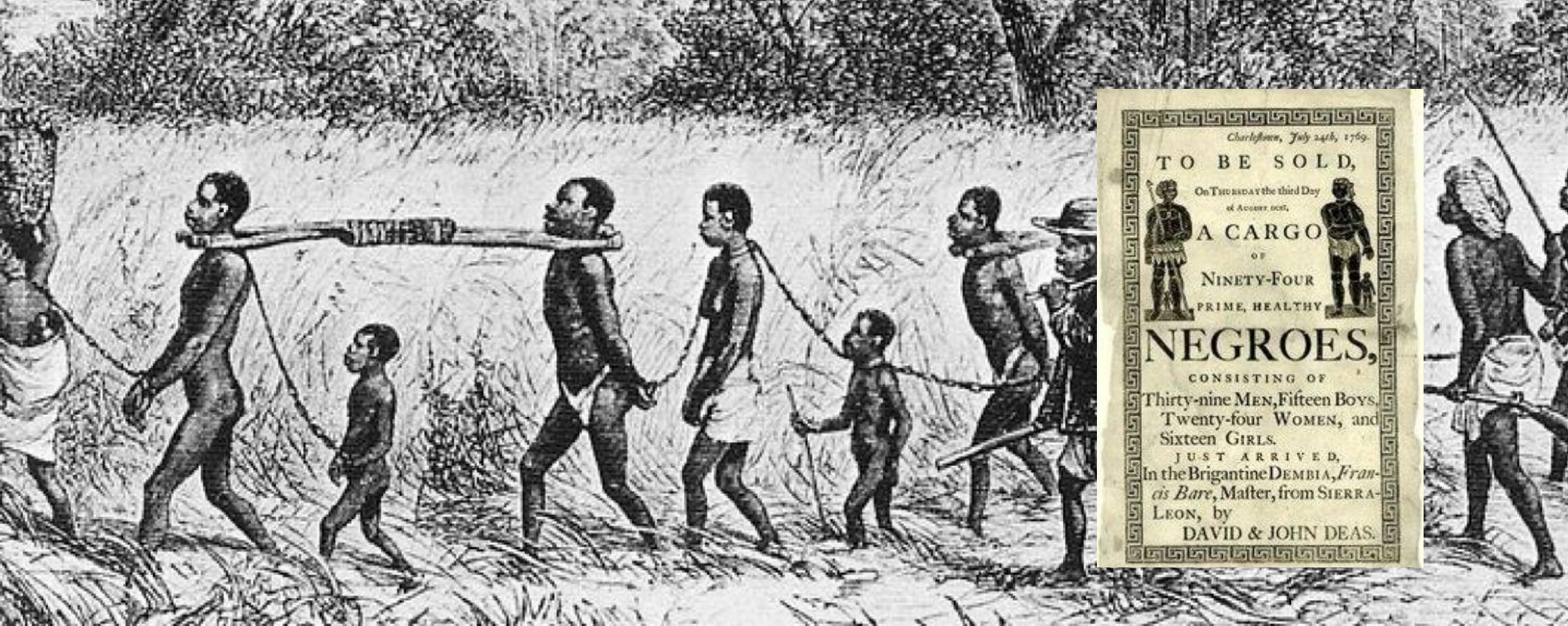


Edward Colston 1636-1721



Wealthy merchant
Donated to churches and hospitals
Founded two almshouses and a school
Member of Parliament

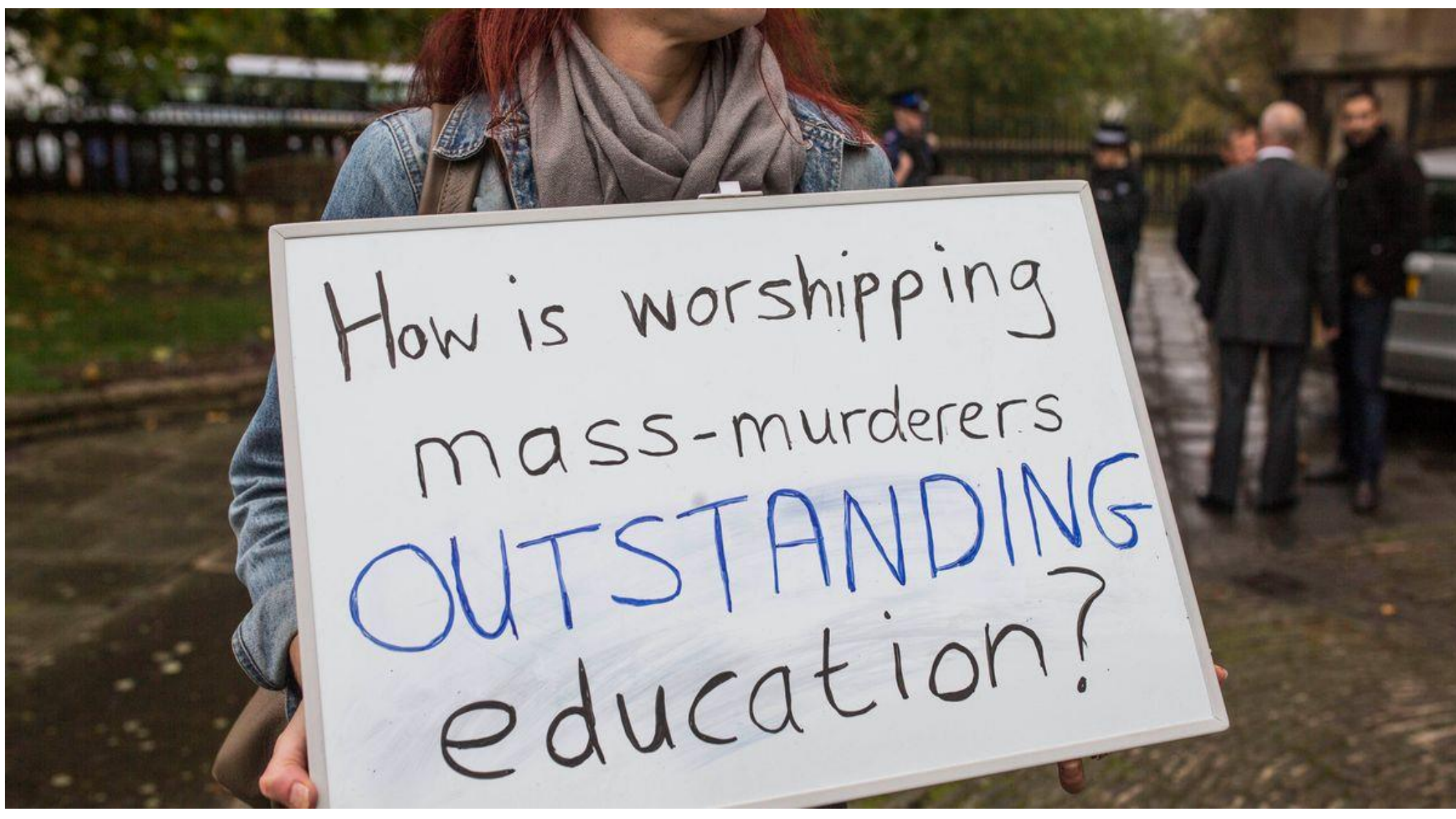




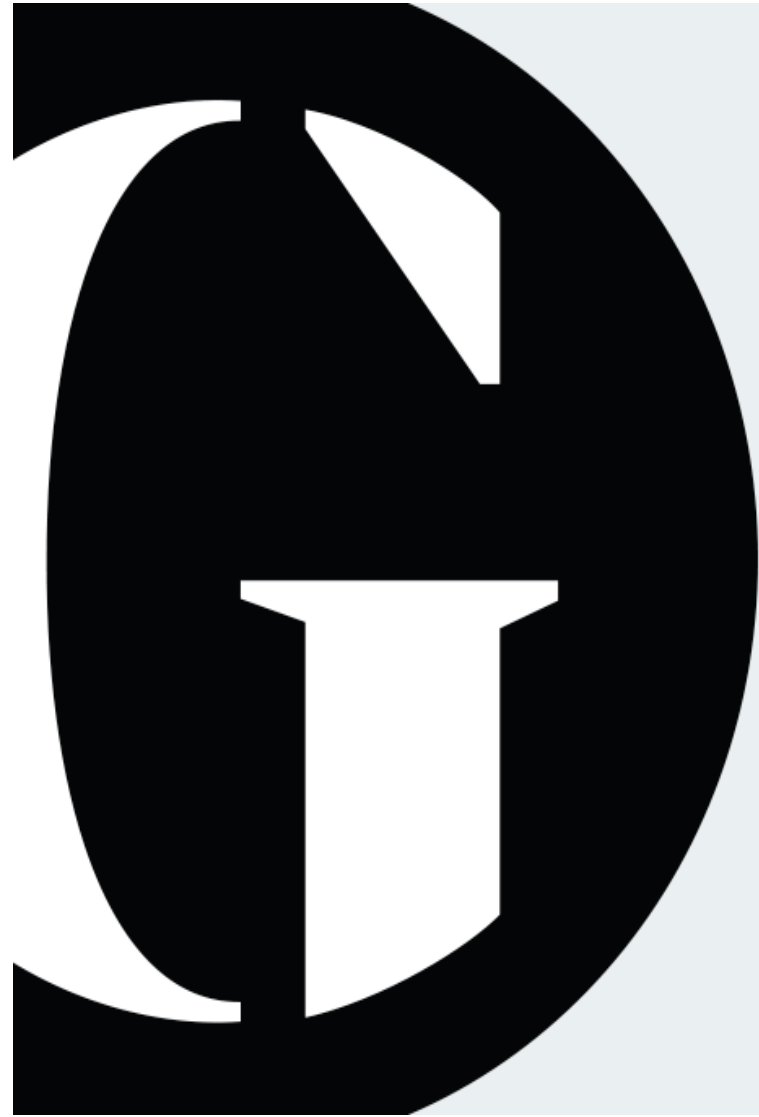
Edward Colston was involved in the **transatlantic slave trade**, through membership of the **Royal African Company**

Activists confront
school students
in the street



A person with red hair, wearing a grey scarf and a denim jacket, is holding a white rectangular sign. The sign has handwritten text in black and blue ink. The background is an outdoor setting with a paved path, some greenery, and several people in the distance, including two police officers in blue uniforms. The lighting is natural, suggesting daytime.

How is worshipping
mass-murderers
OUTSTANDING
education?



The Guardian

***Campaigners confront
pupils over Bristol
schools' slavery links***

How should the school react?

“French education minister reignites row over Muslim headscarf”



Jean-Michel Blanquer, the education minister, criticised France's largest parents association for using a picture

German school students demonstrate over climate change



Montenegro – Celebrating Independence Day in schools





How should schools react?

“ ...the best approach to controversy is not to shy away from it but to embrace it as a natural part of school life, one that is resolved through discussion and debate.”

[Managing Controversy, 2017]

