

The NHS: 75 years of care

1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open, play your chosen music and display the image:
http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/nhs_75.jpg

2. Introduction

Draw pupils' attention to the image. Describe how the letters 'NHS' are just three letters, but that they are very important letters - because the letters have been with us for 75 years and it is likely that everyone in the room will depend on the letters NHS at some point in their lives.

Ask the (rhetorical) question: 'But what do the letters NHS actually mean?' Explain that everyone is going to watch a short animation about a boy called Krish who has been spending some time in hospital. Krish is better now and his mum has arrived to take him home. But before he leaves Krish too would like to know what the letters 'NHS' mean.

3. Play the video

The duration is 3' 52". Final words: '...to show my friends my cast!'

4. After the video - time to talk

Lead a discussion by asking some or all of the following questions:

- **Having watched the video, what do the letters NHS mean?** ('National Health Service' - you may choose to unpack the name by explaining that 'National' comes from 'Nation' - meaning the whole country - and that a 'service' is something that is given or provided)
- **How does the nurse in the video say the NHS is paid for?** (By taxation. You could follow up by asking whether the children can think of any other things that are paid for by taxation - eg education, defence, infrastructure, research, benefits, other forms of care, etc)
- **Can you remember some of the people who help Krish in the animation and some of the other important people who help to run hospitals?** (Paramedics, doctors, nurses, cooks, porters, cleaners. You could follow up by emphasising that many different people with lots of different skills come together to make the NHS work)
- **The NHS will be 75 years old on 5 July. Why do you think it's important that we celebrate that birthday?** (Depending on the age of your group you may wish to reference the pandemic and 'Clap for Carers' which happened on Thursday evenings in March - May 2020)

5. Opportunity to sing

Play the video



6. Opportunity to reflect

Sit quietly as we think now about the letters 'NHS' and why those letters are so important...

Sometimes when we get ill, or we are hurt, we will need to see a doctor and perhaps even spend some time in hospital...

When that happens we want to know that there is someone who will look after us...and make us better again...

For 75 years the NHS has been helping to look after the people of this country - whether young or old...or rich or poor...

Think quietly to yourself about what it feels like when you need help... and someone gives you that help... Happy birthday NHS.

7. Opportunity for prayer

Follow your usual form of address with: Thank you that when we are hurt or unwell there is someone there to help us get better again.

Help us to be grateful for the many different people around us who help us every day.

Let us remember how good it feels to be helped, so that we too make sure we offer our help to others. Amen.