

## 16.10.2023 Whole School Assembly: Sislin Fay Allen

Black History Month: Sislin Fay Allen. History maker. Game changer. Inspiational figure.

Thinking time:

- Can you remember the 5 B V? (British Values)
- What are the P C's? (Protected Characteristics)
- What is bullying? Who could you turn to for help?



Sislin Fay Allen was Britain's first Black female police officer, joining the Met in 1968 at the age of 29, when she proudly put on the cape that was part of a new uniform designed by Norman Hartnell.

As part of the Windrush generation, she had arrived in Britain from Jamaica six years earlier and had been working as a nurse at Queen's Road Hospital, Croydon, until looking for a change of career. At that time in history, there were no Black female police officers in the UK. The police service was only just allowing Black men to join. The children learned about Windrush as a part of last year's assemblies.

When Sislin decided to become a police officer, some people did not think it was right that Black people should be allowed to work for the police force. When someone is not treated with respect because of their race, it is called racism.

A race is a group of people who share the same features, such as the colour of their skin. They might also follow the same religion or speak the same language. Race is of course, one of the protected characteristics. Respect is one of our British Values. At this point I asked the children to share their thoughts about racism with a partner.

The police invited Sislin to take a test to become a Police Officer. She was the only Black person. Sislin passed the test and was allowed to join the police service.

After her training, she worked at a police station near to where she lived. The police station was in a place called Croydon, which is in London.

She was a history maker! During her career in the police service, Sislin has helped many people. She has also inspired many Black people to join the police service.



She was given a lifetime achievement award in October 2020 during a virtual event held by the College of Policing, National Police Chiefs Council and the National Black Police Association.

The ceremony celebrated Black, Asian and minority ethnic female officers.