



Using music to create
a more inclusive society

Session One:

What is Electric Umbrella?

Where Music Unites People and
Creates a More Inclusive Society



Session One: **What is Electric Umbrella?**

Watch the video...



Session One: What is Electric Umbrella?

Let's discuss...

- What does Electric Umbrella use to **help people express themselves?**
- Why do you think it's important for someone to feel **seen, heard and valued?**
- Do you think **it's harder for some people in society to feel like this?** If so, why?
- What did Tom mean when he said, **"You can change the piano, not the pianist"?**



Session Two:

Supporting people to find belonging and fulfil their potential...



Session Two: **Supporting people to find belonging and fulfil their potential...**

William is a member of Electric Umbrella.

This video tells his story:



William, pictured on BGT.

Session Two: **Supporting people to find belonging and fulfil their potential...**

Let's discuss...

Pair up and write your ideas on your worksheet and then share them with the group:

- What **challenges** do you think William might face in order to do what he loves (not just physical challenges)?
- Do you think people might make **assumptions** about William because of his disabilities? Give examples
- **How** does **Electric Umbrella help** William, and **why is it important?**
- William performed on **Britain's Got Talent** with Electric Umbrella. **Why was it important** for them to appear on a **primetime TV show?**



Session Three:

Thinking about what “identity” means...



Session Three: **Thinking about what “identity” means...**

Who am I and who are you?

Pair up and use your worksheet:

- **Write down 8 things that make “you, you”** (examples - hobbies, number of siblings, favourite sports team/ musical artist/ food/religion/cultural heritage...)
- **Compare your list with your partner and discuss with the group:** Are there any differences? Any similarities? Which do you think are the most important or interesting?
- Why do you think it's **important to find out about what makes us different, as well as what makes us similar?**



Session Four:

Why it's Important to Celebrate and Understand Difference



Trigger warning - this video is a first hand account of Gavin's experience of getting beaten up.



Session Four: **Why it's Important to Celebrate and Understand Difference**

At Electric Umbrella, we believe:

- Every individual deserves to be treated with **kindness and respect**.
- **Prejudice** (making unfair assumptions and judgements about someone based on their race, culture, religion, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation) is **born from fear and ignorance** surrounding those that seem different to us.
- **Prejudicial attitudes lead to hatred**. Hatred leads to the **dehumanisation of those that are seen to be “different”**. The dehumanisation of anyone can have terrible consequences, as people are not treated with the kindness and respect that they deserve.



Session Four: **Why it's Important to Celebrate and Understand Difference**

One of our learning disabled members, **Gavin** works at a supermarket. He was **targeted and badly beaten up, because of his disability.**



Gavin, pictured on the microphone in the centre.

Session Four: **Why it's Important to Celebrate and Understand Difference**

Let's discuss...

- Why do you think the teenagers targeted Gavin?
- Why do you think no-one intervened to help Gavin?
- What effects do you think the attack may have had on Gavin (not just physical)?
- Can you think of a time when you, or someone you know, has been the victim of discriminatory language or behaviour?
- What should you do if you witness discriminatory language or behaviour?
- How do you think this situation could have been avoided?



Session Five:

“It’s Not A Crime to be Different”

Following Gavin’s experience as the victim of a Hate Crime, we wrote a song with **Hertfordshire Constabulary**.

It formed part of the **National Hate Crime Awareness Week Campaign 2025**; empowering people to take a stand against all forms of prejudice and hate in their communities.



Session Five: “It’s Not A Crime to be Different”

Watch the official video: featuring **Hate Crime Officers** alongside members of the **Electric Umbrella community**.



Session Five: “It’s Not A Crime to be Different”

Let’s discuss...

- What is a “Hate Crime”?

“Any crime can be prosecuted as a Hate Crime if the offender has either: **demonstrated hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity. Or been motivated by hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity.** Someone can be a victim of more than one type of hate crime.”



Session Five: “It’s Not A Crime to be Different”

Let’s discuss...

- If something isn’t a crime, is it really that bad?

A Hate Incident doesn’t have to include a criminal act. It is an act of abuse (name calling, bullying) **based on prejudice**. People can (and should) report Hate Incidents to the police as they can show a pattern of behaviour/ victimisation, and people that commit Hate Incidents may go on to commit Hate Crimes.



Session Five: “It’s Not A Crime to be Different”

Let’s discuss...

- How should you report a Hate Crime or Hate Incident?

Emergencies should be reported through 999,
non-emergencies through 101 or report online through
True Vision: https://www.report-it.org.uk/your_police_force.

If you see or hear something at school - **TELL A TRUSTED ADULT!**

- Why might someone not report a Hate Crime/Hate Incident?



Session Six:

How can we make society a happier, more hopeful place for everyone?



Session Six: **How can we make society a happier, more hopeful place for everyone?**

Exploring the lyrics

"It's Not a Crime to be Different..."

Using your worksheet:

- **Underline** the lyrics that name different **characteristics that may lead to a person experiencing hatred or prejudice.**
- **Circle** the lyrics that explain **what you should do if you experience, or witness, prejudicial language or behaviour.**
- Highlight what you think are the **most powerful lyrics** and make a note of **why** you think that.



Session Six: **How can we make society a happier, more hopeful place for everyone?**

What can we do?

Be **BRAVE.**

Be tolerant and accepting of others.

Report hate incidents and hate crimes.

Advocate for those who may find it harder to speak up.

Voice concerns about the use of prejudicial language or behaviour in your school.

Educate yourself, and others around you, about diversity and acceptance





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