

## Clive Smith

### ■ Biography

Date of birth: 24th July 1959

Place of birth: May Pen, Clarendon, Jamaica

Date of arrival in Bristol: 1962

Clive Smith moved to Bristol in 1962 from Jamaica with his family. They were led to believe that the streets would be “paved with gold”. He went to school at Newfoundland Road

Primary, St Barnabas Primary, Baptist Mills Primary and St George’s Secondary School (now the City Academy). He was one of the first generation of Black children to attend school in England and he remembers that both pupils and teachers lacked awareness about the people and the culture of the Caribbean.

He says that his parents were his main influence when he was young and Jamaican culture was very important in their home. The family were very business-minded and musical, and Clive played keyboards when he was just eight years old. Clive was also the youngest African-Caribbean boy to play football for Bristol Rovers’ Youth Team. He remembers he became an idol to other Black boys but received a mixed reaction from white football players and supporters – they respected his football skills, but still called him racist names.

Clive became a very gifted dancer and set up a dance group who toured with well known groups at the time such as Third World and Light of the World. Clive represented the South West in the World Disco Dancing Championship for two years.

Clive then became Music Director for Arts Opportunity Theatre, which was set up after the 1980 St Paul’s riots to help jobless young people. Clive loved helping the young people (like Smith and Mighty), develop their talents and gain pride and confidence with new City and Guilds qualifications. Clive was often asked if he knew of any Black people to appear as supporting actors in films so he set up an agency with others to supply what are called “extras”. Clive also appeared as the first Black porter in the TV hospital drama Casualty.



Clive today with his camera  
Photo courtesy of Clive Smith

Clive inherited his father's business spirit, and with his brother, Noel, started a music group, Kobra. They found producers did not understand Black culture of how to mix their music, so they set up their own recording studio, then radio stations like Black FM Radio. They then wanted films to accompany the music so Clive started to make videos.

Clive was motivated by the talents of the people he met in St. Paul's and wanted to capture their stories and history before it was too late, which he did by making films. Some of his films like *My Peeps* and *Street Level* appeared on television and he won Royal Television Awards two years in a row and also a European Award for most original documentary. Clive now makes films with his son Lonnie, and set up his own TV station.



Clive on keybards with the band, Kobra  
Photo courtesy of Clive Smith

Clive is proud of being a voice for people and staying true to his goals and beliefs. His message is:

“To any youngster – be what you want to be, no one can stop you, I’ve proved that. You need focus to see the best way forward.”

## Clive Smith

### ■ Teachers' Background Notes

Clive Smith is best known as a community filmmaker who makes documentaries about African-Caribbean people in Bristol, however this is just one aspect of his busy life.

Clive moved to Bristol in 1962 with his mother, father and sister. They were led to believe that the streets would be 'paved with gold'. He was educated at Newfoundland Road Primary, St. Barnabas Primary, Baptist Mills Primary and St. George's Secondary. Sadly, his memories of that time are mainly unhappy ones. He was one of the first generation of Black children to attend school in England and both pupils and teachers lacked awareness about the people and culture of the Caribbean. Pupils often called him racist names while teachers unfairly put the blame on him or ignorantly told him to have a wash because of the dark colour of his skin.

His parents were his main influence and Jamaican culture was embedded in how they lived. In the playground he was teased for referring to his parents as 'mama and papa', and slipped into using 'Mum and Dad'. However, his father refused to answer to 'Dad'! The family set up the first band to play music in Pentecostal churches in the West Country and Clive played keyboards when he was just eight years old. His father was also an entrepreneur. He was the first Black man to set up a taxi firm and the first to sell West Indian food, such as callaloo and jerk chicken, from a van travelling around the South West. Clive used to travel to Avonmouth with his father to buy Caribbean ingredients and he used to gut the chickens in their back yard aged just six years old.

As well as playing in the church band, Clive was also the youngest African-Caribbean boy to play football for Bristol Rovers Youth Team. He became an idol to other Black boys but received a mixed reaction from white football players and supporters. They respected his superb football skills but at the same time also called him racist names. Clive remembers that because of his travels with the football team, he adventurously visited places in his spare time that Black teenagers often didn't venture to in Bristol such as Hartcliffe, Park Street and the City Centre! If he was talking to a white girl, they would often be racially abused but he recalls that he did not receive help from passing police officers. It was only when Clive began dancing in nightclubs that he discovered Black and white people mixing together in harmony.

Clive became a very gifted dancer in the clubs, especially around the time he moved briefly to Luton and joined the Luton Reserves football team. He set up a dance group called Mahogany with other Black dancers and soon they were touring with well-known groups such as Third World and Light of the World. Clive represented the South West in the World Disco Dancing Championship aged nineteen for two years. It was only when he encouraged a young woman called Julie Brown to enter that she took first prize before going on to become a famous dancer and TV presenter in America.

Clive's dancing and musical experience led to his appointment as the music director for Arts Opportunity Theatre (AOT) in St. Paul's. AOT was set up after the 1980 St. Paul's riots to help jobless young people. Clive loved helping the young people to develop their talents and to gain pride and confidence after gaining City and Guilds qualifications. The musician Smith from Smith & Mighty, was one of the young people who emerged from the experience. Around this time, Clive was often asked if he knew of any Black extras to appear in films so he set up an agency with others to supply them. In 1985 they organised three coach loads of African-Caribbean people to travel from Bristol to Cornwall to appear in the film *Water*, which featured actors such as Sir Michael Caine, Billy Connolly and Leonard Rossiter. Clive and his brother, Noel, were the first Black men to hold Equity cards in the South West, and Clive appeared as the first Black porter in the TV hospital drama, *Casualty*.

Clive and his brother Noel also decided to set up a music group called Kobra, however, when they went to the recording studios they discovered that the producers did not understand Black culture or how to mix their music. The Smith brothers therefore set up their own recording studio, but then found it difficult to get their music played on the radio. They set up their own radio station, known as FTP (For the People) and later Black FM Radio.

Realising that they needed visuals to accompany their music, Clive decided to buy a camera to make his own videos. He was also motivated by the talents of the people he met in St. Paul's and wanted to capture their stories and history before it was too late. People knew him well, because of his successes in football, dancing and music or through his family involvement with the Pentecostal churches, and so they trusted him to come into their homes to film. One day he was filming at the St. Paul's Carnival and a man asked him if he was a filmmaker. This man turned out to be Andrew Wilson, Head of Regional Programmes, BBC West and this encounter led to some of Clive's films appearing on television. His films *My Peeps* and *Street Level* won Royal Television Awards for two years in a row and he also won a European Award for most original documentary.

Because Clive had created so many films about people in St. Paul's, including white and Asian people, and films about the Caribbean and Africa, he decided to set up his own TV station, *AS IT IS tv*. Now he makes new films with his son, Lonnie, often using their own funds to buy equipment for more filming. Clive is proud of being a voice for people and staying true to his goals and beliefs.

Clive's message is:

**“To any youngster – be what you want to be, no one can stop you, I've proved that. You need to focus to see the best way forward.”**

## Clive Smith

### ■ Suggested Activities

These are suggested activities based on Clive Smith's biography. The activities in bold print have a detailed lesson plan on following pages.

Foundation Stage/ KS1 Activities	KS2 Activities	KS3 Activities
<p><b>My School</b> Discuss 'What I like about my school and what I don't like about my school.' Film special activities in the school. Make a display.</p>	<p><b>Jamaica</b> Look at map of Jamaica - parishes in Jamaica. Famous places e.g. Dunn's River Falls, Montego Bay. Talk about the Flag of Jamaica. Listen to Montego Bay or Linstead Market songs. Learn song/action.</p>	<p><b>Racism</b> Discussion/Debate What is racism? What are the antiracist policy and procedures in your school? How can we challenge racism?*(PSHE Citizenship).</p>
<p><b>Friendships</b> Discussion: What makes a good friend? Words to describe friends and friendship. Other type of friendships e.g. animal friendships.</p>	<p><b>Interviews</b> <i>Watch My Peeps or Abolition 200 films* by Clive Smith.</i> Pupils in threes interview and film each other.</p>	<p><b>Music/Dancing</b> Research types of music and dancing that are associated with the Black community – focus on Bristol. (Music).</p>
<p><b>Food from Jamaica</b> Food from the Caribbean – jerk chicken, plantain. Taste or make some simple Caribbean food or drink.</p>	<p><b>Sports</b> Football: Use ICT skills to find out more about a famous Black footballer. School to invite a Black sportsperson into school to be interviewed.</p>	<p><b>Dreams/Aspirations</b> Discussion of personal aspirations, role models, opportunities and difficulties in realising aspirations. (PSHE/Citizenship).</p>

\*See the resource list for details

## ■ Lesson Plan: My School (PSHE, English, ICT)

### Learning objectives

- To know how to express opinions.
- To learn to use ICT equipment for film making.
- To know how Black and minority ethnic people contribute to film making in Bristol.

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Key words/phrases	Resources	Organisation/Grouping
Likes/dislikes	Biography and pictures of Clive Smith.	Whole class
Opinions	Video cameras	Pairs
Filming	TV	Small groups
Special activities	Laptop	

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### Suggested activities

- Read or share Clive Smith's biography and pictures.
- In pairs, pupils talk about what they like or don't like about their school and give reasons. Report back to whole class. Talk about similarities and differences of opinions in the class.
- Talk about special activities in the school or classes in the school. Select some for filming e.g. a guest speaker, a cooking lesson, a drama activity. Pupils work in two/threes to make films of a chosen activity. Filming could be done at different times during the school day. Use films for a class film show.

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### Plenary

- Talk about the process of filming and the outcomes.

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### Learning outcomes/Success criteria

- Pupils are able to give reasons for likes and dislikes.
- Pupils are able to use ICT equipment to make and produce a film.
- Pupils learn about Clive Smith and his contribution to Bristol.

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### Assessment opportunities

- Expressing opinions, ICT.

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### Homework task or Parent/Carer involvement

Parent/carers share examples of special activities they were involved in at school.

# Clive Smith

## ■ Lesson Plan: Interviews (PSHE, Literacy)

### Learning objectives

- To develop questioning and interviewing skills.
- To develop ICT skills using cameras.
- To know that Black and minority ethnic people have contributed to the local community through films.

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Key words/phrases	Resources	Organisation/Grouping
Interviews	Biography/picture of Clive Smith	Whole class
Films	<i>My Peeps</i> films	Group work
<i>My Peeps</i>	<i>Abolition 200</i> interviews*	
	Video camera	

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### Suggested activities

- Read/share Clive Smith's biography and pictures.
- Watch *My Peeps* film/listen to one of the *Abolition* interviews. Discuss issues raised.
- Pupils work in groups of three to discuss views on a subject relevant to them e.g. current issues in the school or in the media. Each group to produce a short film in which they interview each other.

### Plenary

- Share films with class. Talk about the process of filming and the outcomes.

### Learning outcomes/Success criteria

- To be able to ask relevant questions and give personal views on a given subject.
- Pupils will have recorded an interview.
- Pupils know about Clive Smith's life and his contribution to Bristol.

### Assessment opportunities

Interviewing techniques/confidence.

### Homework task or Parent/Carer involvement

What is your family's favourite film?

\*See the resource list for details

# Clive Smith

## ■ Lesson Plan: Racism (PSHE)

KSS3

2:14

Clive Smith Lesson Plan

### Learning objectives

- To look at how we can challenge racism today.
- To know that Black and minority ethnic people experience and challenge racism in Bristol.

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Key words/phrases	Resources	Organisation/Grouping
Racism	Biography/picture of Clive Smith	Whole class
Black and minority ethnic	Race Relations Act 1976*	Small group
Legislation	SARI	
Race Relations Act 1976	Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000	
Support Against Racist Incidents (SARI)		

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### Suggested activities

- Read/share Clive Smith's biography.
  - Discussion on what racism is and what legislation exists to tackle racism. Talk about school policy and procedures.
  - Pupils work in small group to prepare for and interview a visitor from SARI or Equalities Team. Record the interview.
  - Make a list of ways that we can challenge racism.
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### Plenary

- Share recording and list with another class in the school.
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### Learning outcomes/Success criteria

- Pupils can know that tackling racism is the responsibility of everyone.
  - Pupils know about Clive Smith and his contribution to Bristol.
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### Homework task or Parent/Carer involvement

What are the groups in Bristol that support people who have experienced racism or inequality?

\*See the resource list for details

## Clive Smith

### ■ Resources

- *My Peeps*  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bristol/content/madeinbristol/2004/03/17/mypeeps.shtml>
- Bristol CYPS Folder – Dealing with Harassment in Bristol schools.
- Support Against Racist Incidents - [www.sariweb.org.uk](http://www.sariweb.org.uk)
- Race Relations Act 1976 included, teachers to find copy of Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

#### Contact details

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Willing to be contacted by teachers for further questions? Yes

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Willing to come into school to talk to pupils? Yes

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Clive Smith

■ Resources: The Race Relations Act

**The Race Relations Act of 1976 made it illegal to discriminate against anyone because of their race, colour, and nationality, ethnic or national origins. It applied to jobs, housing, services, training and education.**