

Child Q case study self reflection

Reflection questions

1. Initial reactions and reflections

- What were your first thoughts and feelings when you learned about the Child Q case?
- How would you describe what happened to Child Q in your own words?
- What factors do you think influenced the way Child Q was treated by school staff and the police?

2. Institutional responses and decision making

- What role did the school play in this case? Should the school have acted differently?
- What role did the police play in this case? Were their actions justified?
- How do school policies and policing procedures allow incidents like this to happen?
- What safeguarding measures were ignored, and why do you think that happened?
- Would the outcome have been different if Child Q were a white student? Why or why not?

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3. The role of systemic racism

- What patterns of racial bias or discrimination do you see in this case?
- How does this case reflect the adultification of Black children?
- How does racial bias influence the way Black young people are perceived by authority figures?
- What historical or structural factors might have contributed to this incident?
- If a system consistently produces disproportionate harm to one racial group, can it be considered neutral?

4. Impact on young people

- How might this experience affect Child Q's mental health, confidence and trust in professionals and institutions?
- What impact do cases like this have on Black children's sense of safety in schools?
- How do incidents like this affect young people's relationships with teachers and the police?
- What are the long term consequences of over policing and criminalising Black children and young people?
- How do such incidents shape young people's educational experiences and aspirations?

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5. Accountability and change

- Who should be held accountable for what happened to Child Q?
- What changes should be made to school policies and police practices to prevent similar incidents?
- How can professionals (health professionals, teachers, social workers, police, probation, judiciary) challenge racial bias in their decision making?
- What does justice look like in this case?

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