

Free course trailer

Principles and practices of peace education

Dr Lucy Henning, Ellis Brooks and Isabel Cartwright:

Have you ever thought that peace can be a verb? A dynamic practice of hope, something you can do everyday. Something that you can learn to do everyday.

There are so many aspects to practising peace. It can involve engaging non-violently with conflict, listening to others to understand their point of view, expressing your own calmly and clearly and finding positive outcomes together.

You can also practise peace by making time for stillness and reflection, taking a breath, quietening your thoughts. Finding space to stop and understand who we are in the world around us.

And then there's those practices of peace that don't feel quiet at all. Times where you have to upstand for your rights and those of others. Times when you have to engage with the world outside and struggle for the big things, equality, fairness and justice. Peace can be hard work.

Principles and practices of peace education is a free OpenLearn course that can help you begin your own journey as a peace educator. It is a collaboration between the Open University and peace educators from Quakers in Britain.

The course is for anyone who works with children and young people. You'll meet educators working with children and young people in schools all over the UK. It introduces theories and concepts of peace as well as the practices that help educators build peace with children and young people in educational communities.

You'll learn about the theory behind peace education and how to use it to plan for learning. You can work through it on your own or use it to plan for professional development for groups of people.

Peace is rooted in the relationships we make with ourselves, our families and communities and the wider world beyond. Peace can also be about our relationship with the Earth and how we take up our place in nature.

You might think of peace as the practicality of hope, being able to see a better world and know what steps to take to build it. UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation believes that *building more peaceful, just, and sustainable societies starts with education.*

The great thing is that all these practices of peace can be learned and taught. The world is full of amazing teachers who work hard with children and young people everyday, helping them develop the competencies they need to be build peaceful lives for themselves in their families, the communities and societies in which they live and as inhabitants of planet Earth.

Peace education can be transformational and empowering for all members of educational communities and the world beyond. Come and see how you can be part of this on OpenLearn.