

## KEY STAGE 3

# How do social issues affect people?

## What are social issues?

You may have already discussed social issues in Lesson 1 of First Give. As a reminder, a social issue is a problem that affects many members of society. For example:

- ◆ Poverty
- ◆ Mental health issues
- ◆ Climate crisis
- ◆ Physical health issues
- ◆ Racism
- ◆ Homelessness



## Identifying issues

Read the story below or listen to it [here](#).

“Grace and Reuben are brother and sister. Grace is in Year 7 and Reuben is in Year 9. They are looked after by their mum.

Their mum’s job as a carer for the elderly doesn’t pay that well. She has to work hard to provide enough food for them. Her work sometimes means that she can’t be at home when Grace and Reuben come home from school. As a result, there sometimes isn’t anything for dinner.

Reuben has been getting angry about this and has stopped going home after school. For the last six months, he has been drinking alcohol with a group of older people at the local park until late at night. Grace thinks these boys are involved in a gang, but she is too scared to say anything because Reuben is so angry all the time.

Both Grace and Reuben’s grades at school are getting worse. Grace is stressed and anxious and stops speaking at all. Reuben has also started shoplifting. Just little things from the local shop.

One day a teacher speaks to Grace about the fact that she has become so quiet. It takes some time, but eventually Grace opens up about some of the problems. The teacher organises a meeting with Grace’s mum and recommends a local youth charity who provide a youth club and advice centre for young people. She also suggests a food bank to make sure they have enough food.

As well as food, the foodbank offers guidance about how they can apply for additional support from the Government.

Grace is still worried about Reuben, but she feels a little better about things.”

List as many social issues as you can from the story.

## How are social issues connected?

Choose two issues that you think are connected in the story.  
Write them in the boxes below.

Describe the connection between them.

## Who should provide support?

Select the people or groups you remember that supported Grace in the story.

The Government

A charity

A family member

A religious group

A teacher

**Choose one of those people or groups to think about. How did they support her?**

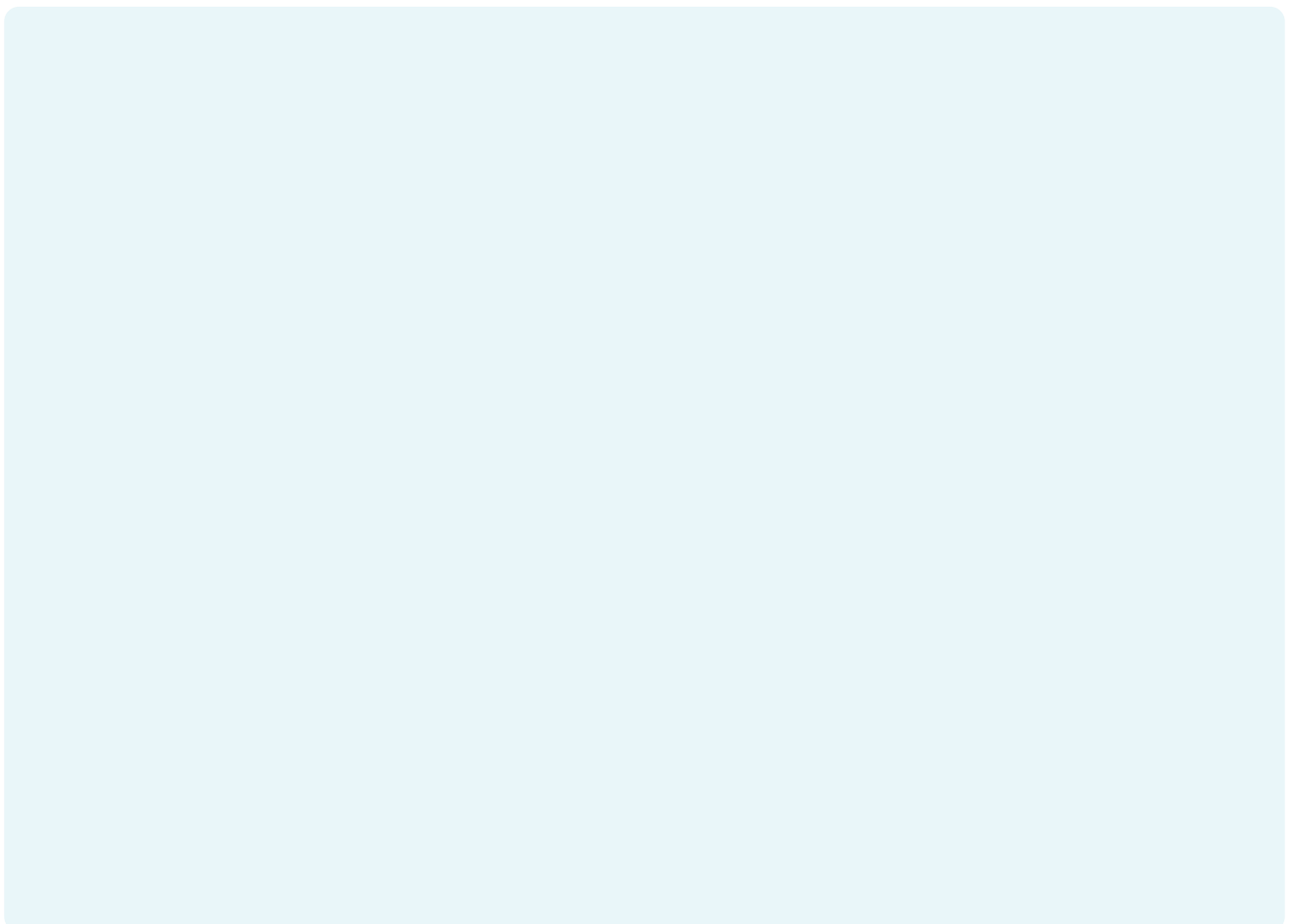


## **How does Grace feel?**

**Imagine you are Grace. Write a diary entry for the day that Grace received support from her teacher. There is a word bank and some sentence starters on the next page to help.**

**You might want to include...**

- ◆ ...how the issues you face are affecting you
- ◆ ...whether you have done anything to solve the issue yourself
- ◆ ...how the support made you feel
- ◆ ...why you think you needed the support you were given
- ◆ ...how you think things might get better in the future



## Word bank

Relieved

Hope

In addition  
to that

Lonely

Honestly

Supportive

Concern

Emotional

Finally

Grateful

However

Gently

## Sentence starters

Today after lessons, I had a meeting with...

Once I finished talking, Miss...

Now we've spoken, I feel... because...

Miss called my Mum and...

I hope that in future Reuben... Because...

Mum and Miss began discussing...