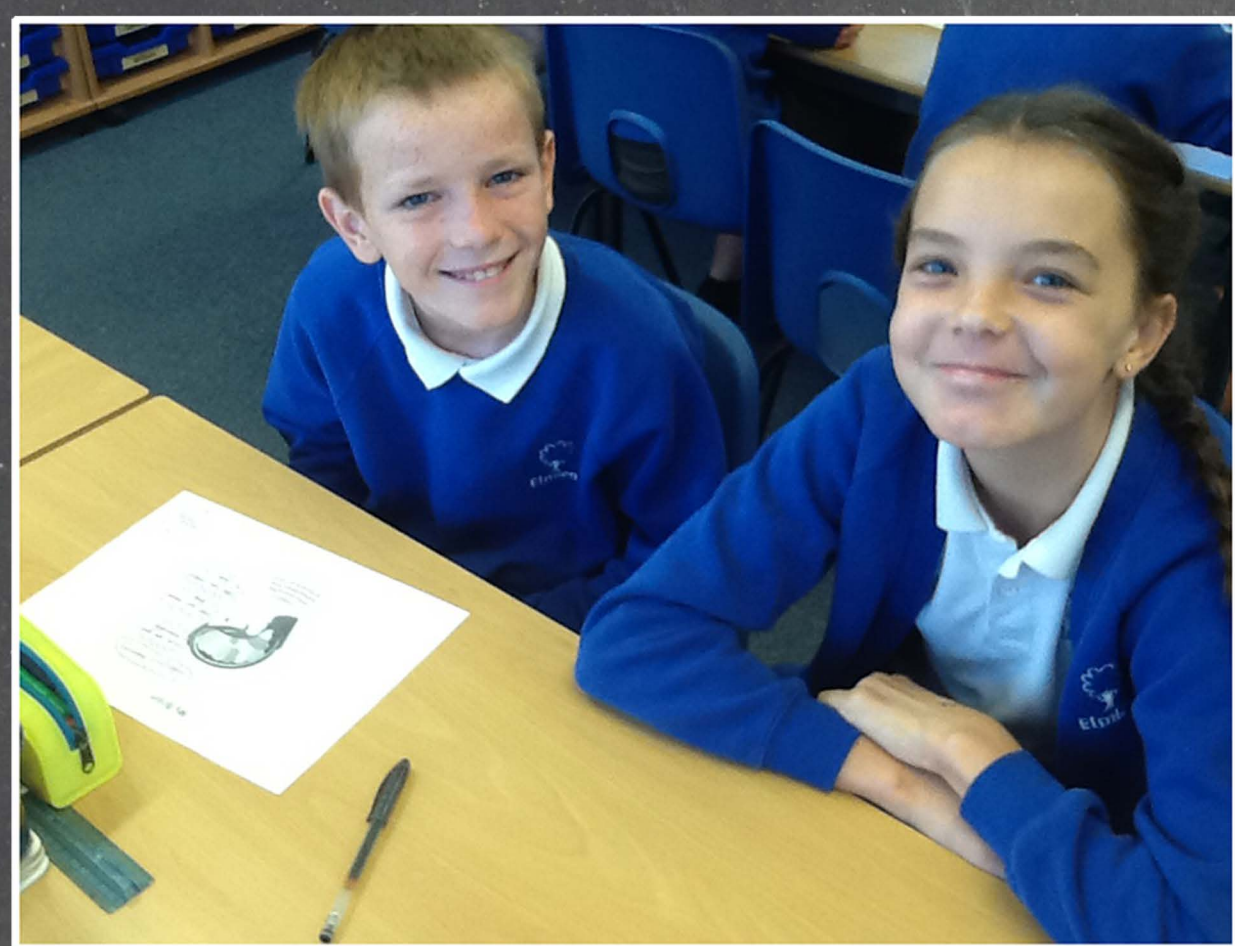


# Educating the next generation

One of the service's guiding principles is to support Bristol to become a dementia-friendly city and we recognise the influence that young people have across generations. In 2017 we invested in a new Community Development role to lead on dementia education in Bristol's primary and secondary schools.

Previously access to dementia awareness in schools and engagement was limited. Our Community Development Coordinator has experience of working in the education sector and was able to establish key contacts with Bristol's schools, understanding their ethos and curriculum. This has been essential in the creation of credible and sustainable networks, adopting a strategic and flexible approach that is responsive to each school's needs.

Through investing in this role, we have been able to establish a formal offer to schools, enabling them to build learning through the Key Stages, following pupils from primary to secondary school.



The offer includes age-appropriate assemblies and Dementia Friends sessions for pupils. We have also recently run a project to match people living with dementia with schools, bringing them into the learning environment. This has been very successful with students reporting positive changes in perception and understanding about people living with dementia alongside enhanced wellbeing and sense of purpose for those who took part. Pupils are also introduced to volunteering opportunities and fundraising, supporting longer-lasting change for Bristol's young generation.



"Now I understand! I had heard about dementia but I didn't understand what it was."

"I've learned you can live well with dementia."

"Just because someone with dementia may forget your name, it doesn't mean they don't love you."

Outcomes:

- To date, over 125 Dementia Friends sessions have been delivered in Bristol's schools with over 4,000 new Dementia Friends each making an individual pledge to help ensure Bristol is a dementia-friendly city
- Feedback from schools is very positive with 100% rating the sessions 'very good' or 'outstanding' and 100% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the resources provided are engaging and enjoyable
- There is a high percentage of continued engagement in the second academic year in almost all schools
- We have also developed a list of resources to support young people in families affected by dementia

"Such an important session for our children. Dementia is all around us and something some of our children are experiencing. Anything we can do to raise awareness will only help enrich our community and help our next generation to be kinder and more accepting." (PSHE leader)



**BRISTOL DEMENTIA WELLBEING SERVICE**  
[bristoldementiawellbeing.org](http://bristoldementiawellbeing.org)

