

Women of Bradford – Margaret Macmillan



Margaret was alive in the Victorian times. She was a teacher and in 1877 she became interested in campaigning for equal rights. Campaigning is when you really care about something and want to make a positive change, so you have to convince other people to join you. Eventually you have to convince the government and the people in the charge to make sure the change gets made!

In the Victorian times it was very hard for children. Many couldn't go to school and had to go and work in dangerous factories and mills. Some who did go to school would be too poor to have any breakfast and lunch. They might only get a small meal before bed. This would make them poorly. Margaret was very concerned at this. She felt this was no way for children to be treated. She

argued to the Bradford School Board that **'hungry children cannot learn'**.

Margaret was successful and because of her efforts the city provided free school meals, health checks, PE lessons, swimming baths and nurseries for very young children. **Did you know that Bradford was the first city in the country to do this for children?** In 1906, the government passed an Act which brought into law that schools had to provide meals. So because of Margaret Macmillan, you have school meals, you have PE lessons and you have lots of teachers who look after you!

Even today, some families don't have enough food to feed everyone, especially if they can't go to school and have a school dinner. The footballer Marcus Rashford campaigns for this today, arguing just like Margaret did that hungry children cannot learn.

Hungry Children Cannot Learn

Colour in these letters so you don't forget them!

Campaigning Today

Just like Margaret and Marcus, you can be a campaigner. Is there something you really care about? Maybe you want to encourage people in your area to stop littering.

One way to do this is by creating a peaceful placard that looks like this. People use these to peacefully protest for something they care about. You can make your own and pop it in your window or take a picture to show a friend.

Make your own peaceful placard with a message on it. Practice on here and then use your card and pens to make one. Stick a lolly pop stick to the bottom so you can hold it up.

