



# CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

AT DONISTHORPE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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# WHAT IS CULTURAL DIVERSITY?

CULTURAL DIVERSITY REFERS TO A VARIETY OF ETHNIC GROUPS OR CULTURES BEING PRESENT WITHIN SOCIETY. THIS SOCIETY SHOULD AIM TO: ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, EMPOWER ALL THROUGH INCLUSIVITY, AND VALUE OTHERS. IT CAN ALSO MEAN THAT SOCIETY RECOGNISES THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS TO OURSELVES.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TEACH ABOUT CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM?

AS A SCHOOL WE AIM TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY IN SCHOOL. IF YOU'RE WONDERING, 'WHY?', THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM, IS DESIGNED TO SET CHILDREN UP FOR LATER LIFE. WHEN CHILDREN GROW UP, THEY'LL BE EXPERIENCING A COUNTRY THAT'S FULL OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BY ALLOWING CHILDREN TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY IN SCHOOL, THEY'LL HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OTHERS. IT ALLOWS CHILDREN TO UNDERSTAND EQUALITY FOR ALL (MEANING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES), BUT ALSO EQUITY (MEANING TO PROVIDE THE TOOLS FOR PEOPLE TO SUCCEED, WHEN COMING FROM DIFFERENT PLACES IN LIFE).

# WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN SCHOOL?

MUTUAL RESPECT IS AT THE HEART OF OUR VALUES. CHILDREN LEARN THAT THEIR BEHAVIOURS HAVE AN EFFECT ON THEIR OWN RIGHTS AND THOSE OF OTHERS. ALL MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT.

WE AIM TO ENHANCE PUPILS' UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR PLACE IN A CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETY BY GIVING THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE DIVERSITY. WE HAVE VISITS FROM THE LOCAL VICAR AS WELL AS CHURCH MEMBERS WHO RUN A REGULAR 'OPEN THE BOOK' ASSEMBLY. WE VALUE FIRST HAND EXPERIENCES AND AS A RESULT WE SEEK TO BUILD TOLERANCE AND RESPECT OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS THROUGH THE STUDY OF A VARIETY OF FAITH BUILDINGS AND WE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE VISITORS FROM A RANGE OF COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONS INTO SCHOOL.

EACH YEAR WE SUPPORT VARIOUS CHARITIES INCLUDING, COMIC RELIEF, CHILDREN IN NEED AND COLLECTING FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK. OUR SCHOOL AMBASSADORS PLAN FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THESE CHARITIES.

ASSEMBLIES REGULARLY PROMOTE 'RESPECT', AND PUPILS HAVE BEEN PART OF DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO WHAT THIS MEANS AND HOW IT IS SHOWN. POSTERS AROUND THE SCHOOL PROMOTE RESPECT FOR OTHERS AND THIS IS REITERATED THROUGH OUR CLASSROOM AND LEARNING RULES, AS WELL AS OUR BEHAVIOUR POLICY.

OUR WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO US, IT IS HERE THAT WE REGULARLY UPHOLD THE TRADITIONAL VALUES OF EMPATHY, RESPECT AND TOLERANCE. THESE ARE ALSO TAUGHT WITHIN FORMAL PSHE LESSONS. WE ALSO USE ASSEMBLIES TO EXPLORE AND UNDERSTAND THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN RELIGIONS.

CURRICULUM TOPICS INCLUDE LEARNING ABOUT AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY FROM OTHER FAITHS; MISCONCEPTIONS BETWEEN RELIGIONS ARE ADDRESSED AS WELL AS PREJUDICES THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY THE COMMUNITY.

THE SCHOOL HOLDS A YEARLY WEEK OF CULTURE WHERE WE IMMERSE THE CHILDREN IN DIFFERENT CULTURES, WITH FOOD, ART, MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA FROM VISITING WORKSHOPS AND CLASS TEACHERS. ASSEMBLIES AND DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING PREJUDICES AND PREJUDICE-BASED BULLYING ARE REGULARLY HELD. WE FOLLOW THE LEICESTERSHIRE AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE AND USE THE KAPOW MATERIALS TO ENHANCE PSHE TEACHING. WE ALSO CELEBRATE AND DISCUSS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN CLASS.

IN THE PAST YEAR 5 & YEAR 6 VISITED THE SOMME BATTLEFIELD'S IN FRANCE; ON THEIR RETURN THEY LED A WHOLE SCHOOL WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE CULMINATING IN A PEACE SERVICE LED BY OUR LOCAL CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE. WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING OUR NEXT VISIT! AS A WHOLE SCHOOL, WE HAVE CELEBRATED THE WORLD CUP, THE OLYMPICS AND PARA OLYMPICS, WITH OLYMPIC THEMED SPORTS DAYS AND SPECIAL OLYMPIC WEEKS. ROYAL CELEBRATIONS ALSO PLAY A LARGE PART IN OUR CURRICULUM OFFER FOR EXAMPLE, THE PLATINUM JUBILEE- WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING THE KINGS CORRIANTION NEXT YEAR!