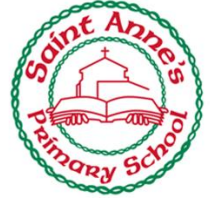




CELEBRATING DIFFERENT CULTURES AND DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM



At St Anne's, we believe that diverse classrooms promote creativity, high level thinking, and collaboration. Our classrooms represent different backgrounds, cultures, ethnicity, language, religion, and physical ability. Being diverse is defined as all the ways we are unique and special which is underpinned by our School Mission Statement 'Each one of us is unique, each one of us is special. Because we are created by God's love.'

Our Catholic Social Teachings and Values and Virtues, highlight the importance of recognising everyone as a child of God and navigating through life with a core set of principles to live by.

We recognise:

The importance for children to be culturally aware, to prepare the children for life in Modern Britain.

Learning about other cultures, languages, religions, and holidays aside from their own help children learn that others around them may be very different from them. Being culturally aware is a wonderful way to promote inclusion for all.

The importance for children to appreciate cultural differences. In addition to being aware of the fact that their peers may be different, it's also important for children to learn about some of the unique and amazing things that come from other cultures and ways of life. It helps build tolerance, curiosity and respect for others.

The importance for children to overcome stereotypes. Celebrating different cultures will bring to light new thinking and understanding. Children need to understand there is never a right or wrong way- what is ok is that we are all different and we learn and grow together. This type of learning will encourage children to be creative thinkers.

How do we promote celebrating diversity and culture at St. Anne's?

Allow children to share: children love to be the experts and allowing them to share and feel excited to share will bring a positive climate our classrooms. Many times, even the shyest children will want to share with their peers about their culture because they are EXPERTS and feel proud of it.

Reading Books About Diversity: Reading books that celebrate different cultures. Reading books allows the voice of the culture to be heard and we are also able to show pictures and images from the different cultures.

These are just some of the reasons why it's so important to celebrate different cultures in the classroom. The more students are aware of other cultures, the more able they will be to recognize the beauty of diversity!

1. Learning about difference

Subjects such as Religious Education, music, Geography, Art and history, where the teacher has the necessary subject expertise, increase children's religious and cultural literacy.

In geography or history, children research and read about different cultures or migration, sharing stories from their family or ethnic group where appropriate.

In English or drama based lessons, children develop stories, poems or plays that are prompted by pictures, storybooks, songs, literature, films and videos that consider ethnic and cultural differences.

2. Protected Characteristics

Children are taught the importance of inclusivity and actively saying no to discrimination. Through the teaching of Protected Characteristics, children understand that those of a different race, or religion (along with the seven other protected characteristics) must be protected in society.

3. Empathising

Supporting children to consider what it is like to stand in someone else's shoes encourages empathy, another important component in promoting community relations. For example, pupils in citizenship or PSHE lessons might role-play the character of a historical figure who experienced discrimination, such as Nelson Mandela or Malala Yousafzai. Children can engage in interviewing techniques or write about how it might have felt to be that person. Moreover, the children embed an understanding of empathy through Religious Education lessons, learning from religious stories and living out the Gospel values set by Jesus.

4. Celebrating diversity

Embracing and celebrating group difference is crucial and integral to our curriculum. The PSHE unit of work 'Celebrating Differences' is taught in a spiral curriculum, year on year. In arts subjects, there are chances to focus in depth on celebrations of cultural difference, studying various artists from across the world, while all teachers can celebrate cultural diversity through other faith displays, whilst highlighting the principles of British Values too. Importantly, we are willing to discuss, embrace and celebrate difference.