



Overthorpe C of E Academy

Our Diversity Leader is incredibly passionate about promoting and celebrating different faiths and beliefs in our school. She attends equality and diversity network meetings, SACRE meetings and SIAMs network meetings. She acts as a consultant for our curriculum development and is keen to encourage and support teachers in considering diversity through their use of resources and models in lessons.

Our Collective Worship plans and Curriculum Fit for Overthorpe outline regular opportunities for our pupils to learn about different faiths, festivals, cultures, beliefs and special events.

“Overthorpe is more than a school ...”

We are an inclusive school and we are open to all. We celebrate our differences and our curriculum is full of opportunities to explore them.

Our Curriculum Fit for Overthorpe has been written specifically with our school and our locality in mind. Our RE curriculum covers Christianity, Islam and Sikhism as we feel that it is important that our pupils are informed about the beliefs of our local communities and celebrate the differences.

Our pupils and parents in Early Years, as well as the Seniors group from Our Neighbourhood Nest has visited a local mosque this year.

Incidents of racism / homophobic bullying are rare and our Diversity Leader works hard to educate pupils where misconceptions and lack of understanding occurs.

Where Do We Include “Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs” in our Curriculum Fit For Overthorpe?

Our choir has taken part in the Batley Big Iftar as part of the “More In Common” project, in memory of MP Jo Cox. They sang, listened to readings, poems and prayers and joined the Iftar feast as the sun went down. We have been invited to take part again in 2020.

Our Community Champion and our Diversity Leader have applied for and been successful in their bid for a community project involving Christian and Muslim women working collaboratively.

Last year, our Year 2 children took part in the “Carry My Story” project in which they learnt about people’s background and stories from their past. They twinned with pupils from another school and attended a day with lots of schools to work with a refugee. This year, our Year 5 children are taking part in this project.

Our KS1 children have twinned for several years with Pentlands Junior and Infants School, which has a very different catchment to Overthorpe in terms of faiths and beliefs. Pupils were paired and learnt about each other’s differences. They celebrated these differences with drama workshops, art, outdoor sculpture, games, sports and writing.

At the start of each academic year, we work in classes, off-timetable, as a Friendship week. We learn about differences and similarities between us and our friends and loved ones and we promote and celebrate these. We learn about different types of bullying and learn how to feel safe and to protect others. We learn how our school values help us to make choices which celebrate diversity “every day, in every way”.

HOPE

□ TRUST □ FRIENDSHIP □ ENDURANCE □ FORGIVENESS □