

Parents' Diversity Working Group Meeting notes – 22nd September 2021

Parents Attending: Teisha Robb, Claire Mannering, Jitka Kotelenska, Shamina Chordry

How should we teach diversity in school?

- *Starting with the child's experience and immediate environment – class & school.*
- *Teaching immigration from a positive viewpoint. The contribution which different nationalities, groups and traditions have made in the past to British society and how they continue to benefit British society in the future.*
- *Children seeing their experiences reflected back at them. A parent gave the example of the positive impact on their child having learnt about a significant invention from their own heritage & how this fostered an understanding of the contribution made to civilisation.*
- *Need to be aware and teach about blended families with a number of cultures & traditions in one household.*
- *Need to teach empathy with others on a human level with those of different cultures and traditions.*

How should we deal with 'difficult' topics or opposing views/ values?

- *Teach from a point of empathy (how would I feel if X happened) for topics like slavery, racism, bias etc.*
- *Reach into the community and use family members and community/ faith leaders as a resource.*
- *Teach opposing religious viewpoints from a tolerance and understanding perspective 'my truth might be different from your truth, and society may have an agreed truth'.*
- *When addressing racial difference with young children be explicit and straightforward. Too often adults shy away from explaining skin tone (for example) for fear of 'getting it wrong' resulting in children filling in the gaps (often incorrectly). Agree on language used to describe this – as we would in the RSE curriculum.*

Is there anything else we would want to discuss / consider next time?

- *Neuro-diverse children. Historically the school taught this explicitly, but lockdown interrupted this. Also consider the feelings of siblings of neuro-diverse children.*
- *Socio-economic differences and peer pressure – how is this taught in the curriculum?*

Next Meeting: Wed 17th November at 1:30pm.