



Developing Cultural Capital through RE

“It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

It follows that, as teachers, we need to ensure that along with teaching the content of the curriculum, we are enabling children to function as well-informed individuals well after they leave school. It is a huge job, but without the guidance of their teachers, some young people have very little cultural and social input from elsewhere. They could, therefore, miss opportunities that other young people are able to access, which could lead them to make decisions that are less informed than they could be.

Now more than ever, the job of the classroom teacher is of such high importance with regard to filling the gaps that students have. To this end at Newlands Junior School we have planned a curriculum to provide our pupils with an ambitious range of knowledge and opportunities which will open doors and give them confidence in wider society.

Opportunities to develop cultural capital through RE teaching involves:

- Offering a broad and varied curriculum, which focuses on the whole child, whilst developing their understanding of the faiths and beliefs of others, encouraging respect and tolerance for others at all times. All of which will help them to become balanced well-rounded citizens as they progress through life.
- Providing opportunities for children to develop the core values of Citizenship, like tolerance, perseverance etc. through assemblies, engaging in a variety of cooperative activities. The more experience children have of working collaboratively in a group and learning about inspirational people and events, the more embedded these core values will become, making them confident, respectful members of society with the ability to contribute, flourish and be the best they can be.
- Linking our school values like honesty, courage etc. to stories of faith and inspirational people, in order to inspire our children and expose them to positive role models.
- Ensure our children are immersed with key religious vocabulary, values and British values. Make sure children know and respect the importance of key words like protected characteristics, ensuring they understand what these words mean and how they can relate them to their own lives to enable them to become better, kinder individuals.
- Invite individuals into school to broaden our children's experiences of the faiths of others first hand. This could be:
 - Parents/grandparents from the local community with a particular faith
 - Alan Darlington from Methodist group to lead assemblies
 - Ian Webb our local vicar to share experiences/lead assemblies or celebrations
- Giving the children the opportunity to interact with a variety of adults who broaden their knowledge of others and prepare them to be responsible, respectful and active citizens who are able to play their part and become actively involved in public life as adults.
- Further, broaden children's first-hand experience of other faiths by either visiting a place of worship, for example a gurdwara, or by having people in to turn a classroom into a place of worship. Maintain links with local church so whole celebrations like harvest and Christmas can take place at All Saints Church. Ensure that all year groups continue to visit the church at least once throughout the year to deepen their understanding of Christianity.

- Offering themed weeks across school, for example diversity week, multi-cultural week, to further enhance children's awareness of others and to encourage tolerance and respect, demonstrating examples of the best that humanity has to offer.
- To constantly offer a window into the outside world, by keeping up to date with key religious ceremonies, celebrations and events, for example Diwali, Ramadan, Easter. As well as opening children's eyes to the world around them and making them aware of local and global issues as they occur.