

Summary of key points from Race Awareness Group meeting 26/6/24

1. Michael updated on key actions taken by the school since our last meeting in March under the following headings:
 - a. Class assemblies: have provided examples of changes to the curriculum which reflect diversity, in accordance with RAG suggestions.
 - i. This included Y1's assembly which showcased geography and focused on different countries around the world.
 - b. Headlines – this is our main method of reminding parents about our meetings but text reminders are also sent.
 - i. Prompts from the PSA and direct approaches to parents ensured that about 18 parents attended the meeting this time, much higher than last time. However, we need more from all communities.
 - c. Support is available for parents wanting to discuss race and issues like prejudice with their children– please contact Michael with any queries.
 - d. The Haringey Pledge
 - i. Last time, parents had concerns about some of the wording in The Haringey Pledge which they felt was too negative. Michael discussed our proposed rewording with James Page, HEP, and he has agreed that we may amend The Haringey Pledge at St Aidan's.
 - ii. The meeting discussed how important it was to help all children and parents feel that they belong in our community and how this could be done. We concluded that many of the barriers are systemic (they involve everybody) and that this needed to be clearly stated in The Pledge ie. replace 'additional barriers' with 'systemic barriers'.
 - e. The library: more books have been bought by authors of colour and more books featuring pictures and text about children from diverse backgrounds.
 - f. Planning for a Cultural Day* at the beginning of the Autumn Term welcoming in new parents (*see below for detail).
2. Agenda items
 - a. Examples of changes to the curriculum to reflect diversity – Chloe, RE Lead, gave a short summary of the thinking behind the revised RE curriculum which has been chosen to reflect the Haringey community and beyond. It gives opportunities for children to challenge themselves and opinions they might have formed about race and religion.
3. Judith Bijeri gave a short presentation, using short film clips, on how children feel about race, how their attitudes are informed by adults and how their attitudes change as they grow older.

The film clips, all from CNN, included:

- Kids speak their mind about race:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OKgUdQF-Fg>
- Subconscious racial bias in children:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFbvBJULVnc>
- A look at race relations through children's eyes:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPVNJgfDwpw>

As with Judith's previous presentation on colourism - discrimination based on shade of skin colour – the purpose is

- a) to understand how children's attitudes are formed at an early age and how we can change them
 - b) to show the influence of adults' unconscious attitudes and expectations on children and how they may damage children's life chances.
4. Group discussion: how can St Aidan's help all children and parents feel that they belong in our community? What actions can we take?

This is an issue that involves everybody. How can we ensure that more parents, including those who do not see the issue as their problem, come to our meetings to help us find ways forward?

Suggestions:

- Review class trips organised by the PSA – in contrast to Pendarren, why is it that not all children/parents choose to go?
- Show films which promote understanding
- Publicise and celebrate the contributions that every culture makes
- Review the places that children visit on their school trips. Make them more diverse and representative of different communities, perhaps based on culture
- Hold more regular, smaller cultural days, perhaps by class or Key Stage, so that parents have more opportunity to get to know one another
- Food!

*Suggestions for Cultural Day: a celebration of diversity

- After school event 3.30 to 6.30
- Include performances by adults and children
- Displays by children – could include experiences of visits to different countries
- Families bring food to share

5. Next meeting: Date to be agreed



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27/6/24