



3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to update you on our plans for the school curriculum in light of the tragic murder of George Floyd in America and the subsequent Black Lives Matter protests. We know that people in our school community have been affected by these events and know that there are many factors relating to racism, inequality and unfairness that have led to the protests.

As a school, we are constantly reviewing our curriculum and know that we have a huge responsibility to ensure that all children are taught to celebrate diversity, to challenge racial stereotypes and that we are able to make adjustments in our actions to erode and remove inequality in our society. The curriculum we deliver and discussions we have with the children carefully attempt to do this at an age appropriate level.

Below is a summary of the actions we have taken so far. These have involved all school staff and we aim to keep you updated and fully involved with the developments.

Key actions

1. Set up a staff Curriculum Diversity Review Group.
2. Reviewed our curriculum with a view to ensure and widen diversity across all topics – e.g. ensuring that key BAME events/figures are covered, that all topics must include positive images of BAME communities.
3. Established a working party of staff who are developing a specific curriculum which teaches important aspects of Black British History (from Roman times until the present day).
4. Our Literacy team has reviewed and purchased supplementary Literacy Teaching Resources to include stories with positive BAME lead characters and authors. They are also looking at increasing the diversity of new books in the school and reviewing some of the existing books in classrooms and the school library.
5. We are in the process of adding specific lessons to our PSHE curriculum – in particular, supporting children with challenging racial stereotypes and tackling racism. We are using some of the Show Racism The Red Card resources to help us with this.
6. Staff training has been booked for September (and beyond). This will focus on talking to children about race, stereotypes and tackling racism. We are also planning to have staff training on systems and structures built on bias.
7. Staff will be working with EqualiTeach on further developing the school's inclusion and strategies for tackling discrimination.
8. We will be reviewing some of our key policies – such as our Equalities Policy, Behaviour Policy, Wellbeing Policy, Recruitment Policy – to ensure that they reflect a critical approach to tackling systemic racism.

During this time many of you may have spoken to your children about the importance of challenging racist actions and the meaning of the protests. Many families attended the Black Lives Matter marches. Attached are materials that may support you in talking to your children about Black Lives Matter and white privilege. The parents' guide has been distributed by Hackney Learning Trust and the additional materials were created by school staff and loaded to Google Classroom.

We have signed up for a Black Lives Matter parent and carer project with Hackney Learning Trust to help to gather parent and carer views on inclusion and BLM. We are really pleased to be part of this and we will update you very soon with the details of how you can get involved.

We look forward to keeping you informed of developments with our curriculum and will update you before the end of the term on our plans for September when we will be welcoming all of the children and our families back to school.

Yours sincerely

G Fitzmaurice

Geraldine Fitzmaurice
Headteacher