

Response to recent race-related demonstration.

Dear Families and Staff,

As we prepare for the start of a new academic year, we feel it is important to address recent troubling events. East Dene Primary School wholly condemns the racist violence and intimidation seen across the country last month, as well as the use of hateful language, in person or online.

We stand in solidarity with those using their voices and their presence to reject the disinformation, discrimination and hate spread by those who seek to divide us.

At East Dene Primary, we take our Safeguarding Duty very seriously. Racism and faith-based abuse and discrimination are entirely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Our school is committed to ensuring the safety of our school community. We hope that none of our families or staff have experienced any racist incidents as a result of the recent demonstrations.

At East Dene, we take all reports of discrimination seriously and we will continue to do so. As we return to school, we would urge you to continue to inform us if an occurrence you either experience or witness. Suggestions on how we can improve both preventative measures and responses are always welcome.

We have always worked closely with local organisations and the council to ensure our school promotes children's wellbeing and enables them to recognise and value their identity.

Over the course of 2024/25, we will:

- Conduct curriculum audits to ensure our pupils learn about and from a diverse range of people, including the history of migration in the UK, and continue to improve the range of inclusive books in our library.
- Continue with our weekly diversity assemblies, when we look at a different protected characteristic each week and link these to our British Values.
- In weekly PSHE sessions, embed regular opportunities for pupils to explore concepts of identity, diversity, community and justice.
- Continue to work with families, to ensure the community culture remains a strength of our school through celebrating all religious events.

We will teach the benefits of diversity and focus on building critical thinking skills as a way to prepare our children for their futures in a multi-ethnic, multi-faith, multi-cultural society. We aim to help our pupils see others as unique individuals whilst recognising their similarities and that we are all equal.

We know pupils may have many questions about the events over the past few months. The following resources may help you and your child navigate through this difficult situation.

Online Support for children and young people.

- <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/talking-to-your-kids-about-racism>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/children-race-racism-racial-bullying/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/children-race-racism-racial-bullying/>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/racism-and-mental-health/>

Together, we will continue to work as a community and fight hate and racism head-on to ensure our community stays safe and full of love.

Kind Regards



Mr Tankard