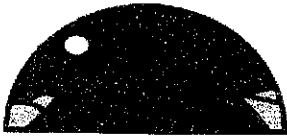


Bankfields Primary School



Be happy
Be successful
Be proud
Be Bankfields



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Headteacher: Mrs P Petrie

Dear Parent

As Headteacher, I would not normally respond to play ground gossip and inappropriate comments made through social media. However, on this occasion, I feel many of the comments made cannot be ignored.

I informed all parents and carers that concerns had been raised around an Islam assembly and workshop held last week and I sent out a notification to explain that this is part of the school's RE syllabus. However, inappropriate and inaccurate comments have continued to be uploaded over the weekend and in to this week.

Bankfields School follows the Christian faith, which is predominantly taught in every year group throughout school. This is done through the RE syllabus, assemblies, hymn practice, visitors and daily collective worship. However, quite rightly so, it is a statutory requirement for every school in the country to teach children about a range of different faiths, worldwide views and cultures. This is to ensure that children from all faiths have an understanding and awareness of people whose beliefs maybe very different from their own and to teach them tolerance and respect which are fundamental British values and key aspects of a Christian ethos.

As part of the school's R.E syllabus, children are taught an awareness of a range of different faiths and beliefs including Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Buddhism along with worldwide views such as humanism and atheism.

During our RE sessions, children learn about key figures from each faith, key festival and celebrations and key beliefs where children are encouraged to identify similarities and differences to their own experiences.

At no point has the school ever asked the children to pray to a different God, encouraged them to adopt a particular religion or influence their beliefs. Our aim is to broaden children's minds, foster curiosity about the world that they live in and to equip them to be successful and tolerant members of a multicultural society.

I understand that parents may occasionally have concern regarding what is being taught and my staff and I are always happy to address any of those concerns and answer any questions. However, turning to social media and resorting to name calling and making unfounded and derogatory claims against the school and members of staff is not the way to raise those concerns and is uncondusive in maintaining effective relationships in the best interests of all our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P Petrie