

Langrish Primary School Picture News Award 2023



In our school council meetings, we decided that we wanted to promote one of the protected characteristics in more detail.

School council team



The school council team took this question back to their individual class:

How can we support and promote one of the protected characteristics in our school?

The school councillors then led each class assembly and recorded their classes response on the school council blog. Feedback from our school blog mostly identified that we have a very small percentage of ethnic minorities in both Langrish Primary school and in our local community. We decided to look at the protected characteristics; Race and Religion.

Our aim: To promote more of an awareness of different cultures, values and beliefs.

What did we do?

The school councillors decided to find out which children in the school have a link with a different country. We sent out an email to parents and recorded the same question on our school blog:

*Do you have any links to a different country around the world?
e.g. a close relative (grandparent /parent who is from a different country).*

We had numerous responses and we discovered there were countless links to different countries in many children's close families. The school councillors thought it would be a good idea to have a cultural afternoon, where each class could choose a country or countries to focus on. This would be linked to someone in their class or a close relative to them and it would give them the opportunity to share any of their values, beliefs and traditions.

In each class from Reception to Year 6 we explored many different countries and completed fun, interactive activities.

In Year R the children explored Switzerland. A child from Year 6 spoke to the children about his heritage of Switzerland, he shown and spoke to the children about different items and played the alphorn. In Year 1 the children learnt about Poland and Italy. They looked at different types of Italian pasta and learnt simple phrases in Polish such as hello – Witam. Year 1 have a polish LSA who was able to talk about her heritage and fun traditions. In Year 2 they explored Egypt, The Philippines and Holland. The children learnt a Filipino nursery rhyme, completed some ancient Egyptian art and learnt simple phrases in Egyptian. They also looked at some traditional items from Holland and listened to their adapted Christmas story.



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In Year 3 the children explored Australia and Ireland. The children shared information and items from Australia, created maps and shared important facts about the countries in groups. In Year 4 the children researched France and Spain. The children tasted different Spanish cuisines and created famous landmarks in France with clay. In Year 5 the children focused on New Zealand, Thailand, The Netherlands and Egypt. The children learnt and shared facts about each country and learnt and performed the dance 'Haka' from New Zealand. In Year 6 they heard about the cultures of Japan, India and Denmark from members of their class. They shared their experiences, family traditions and traditional items. They learnt how to say hello in Danish, Japanese and Hindi.



Please listen



Who has it impacted?

All of the children who are from these backgrounds, promoting their ethnic background by celebrating their culture, tradition and beliefs. It has also benefited the whole school to become more aware of each other's cultures. Here are some quotes from the school councillors on who they think it has impacted.

"It has helped those children who are from ethnic minorities feel more included as they have a sense of safety over what they already know".

"It has helped us get to know our friends more, like knowing their heritage and where they have come from".

"It was fun to learn about new countries that we wouldn't have necessarily have learnt about before and it felt more meaningful learning it from our friends".

How has it made a difference?

We think it has helped the whole school become more aware of different backgrounds and cultures, by learning first hand from children from these countries. It also has promoted real experiences and helps children not to learn prejudices or stereotypes.

Statements from around the school captured these quotes from a variety of children.

"I felt happy learning about different cultures because then I knew where everyone in the class came from/families originated from".

"I liked learning about the countries and researching them. it was really fun and now we have more knowledge about them".

"I liked learning about cultures because I now know not every country is the same and I have learnt the differences".

"I enjoyed learning about our heritage and opening up opportunities to learn about other peoples' heritage".

We added these to our Right Respecting Class Charters in each class, acknowledging the importance of the **Protected Characteristic of Race** and **Fundamental British Values of Mutual Respect and Individual Liberty**.

What are we going to do next?

Continue this as an annual event; start looking at other protected characteristics and raise more awareness about it. Complete assemblies with the school councillors; reading stories about different children/families around the world.