

Thursday, 18 June 2020

Dear SJB Community,

The death of George Floyd has highlighted once again the injustices faced by black communities, leading to grief and anger across the world and here in Hackney. Hackney is a diverse and vibrant borough that we are fortunate to belong to. In light of these recent events we, as a school, want to make a determined statement.

We at St John the Baptist CE PS absolutely stand against racism. We support the values and ethos of the Black Lives Matter movement. We continue to work towards embodying these values and this ethos. It is not enough for our school to be non-racist and diverse; we must be anti-racist and inclusive at all levels.

We unequivocally condemn the brutal killing of George Floyd as yet another example of police violence and brutality in the USA. However, we also recognise that this specific incident is a repetition of similar occurrences much closer to home in the UK.

The outcomes from racism are exhibited in our criminal justice system, education system, employment environments, the health and welfare systems and within government policy and actions, both implicitly and explicitly.

Although we cannot say we have all shared in the same experiences of lived racism, we stand together. And in that, we are painfully aware St John the Baptist CE PS must continue to look in the mirror and critique and challenge ourselves. To stand against racism and for anti-racism, we have to be strong enough to challenge racism in our own institution and identify and change our actions and behaviours where they are found to reinforce racism.

So, what are we doing about all of this?

As an institution, we know we must do more to address systemic racism, and we must do it better.

To truly be anti-racist is to look in that mirror and be able to say that we are:

- Continuing to hold ourselves and our teaching and learning to account for its content and its relevance to our students
- Building a community of staff and students who feel able to share their experiences of racism and know they will receive support, and believe that racism will be challenged

We are examining our own behaviours. We are doing so in a way that recognises that this is a historical and material struggle, and that learning together through this process is necessary.

We ask our parents, children, staff and partner organisations to join us on this journey in challenging racism and helping us to hold our school and ourselves to account.

Please follow this link to view the padlet we have created drawing info from many sources. It has useful details and links for additional information and support - www.padlet.com/SJB_hackney/BLM_Letstalkaboutrace

Sincerely,



Toni Mason
Headteacher



Rob Adediran
LAB Chair and Governor