



St. Jude's Church of England Primary School

Regent Road, Herne Hill, London SE24 0EL

Tel: 0207 274 2883 ~ E-mail: admin@st-judes.lambeth.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss Alexandra New ~ Deputy Headteacher: Miss Claire Douch

Friday 9th October 2020

Dear St Jude's parents and carers,

During lockdown, in May 2020, our community witnessed the brutal murder of George Floyd in the news and the powerful Black Lives Matters response that followed. We know that many staff, parents and children have been deeply moved by these events. We are aware that many of our pupils may have important questions and may experience many difficult and confusing feelings.

In response, much discussion and reflection has taken place between staff members at St Jude's. We have met as a team to discuss and develop our commitments that we are sharing with you below. As educators, we know that schools play a crucial role dismantling systemic racism. These international events have prompted us to recognise there are areas which St Jude's can address through our curriculum, with our school community.

To begin, we feel that it is important to be explicitly clear about our collective vision as a school. Below is a list of our anti-racist commitments to our community:

- ❖ We commit to being anti-racist, actively and publically challenging racism when we encounter it.
- ❖ We commit to educating ourselves so that we are knowledgeable educators of our children in terms of history and on issues of racism.
- ❖ We commit to reviewing our curriculum and our classrooms to ensure that they are even more inclusive and culturally relevant.
- ❖ We commit to racially and culturally diverse libraries, displays and teaching materials that are always visible to all children.
- ❖ We commit to open, honest and challenging dialogue around issues of race and will be creating a community-led working group to drive this.
- ❖ We commit to actively seeking a diverse staff body and governing body, which is reflective of our Christian community.

To meet these commitments, we have already started to take action in school. Since these events unfolded, these are some steps we have already taken:

- ❖ As a team, all staff have started to enrich and diversify our topic webs, reading corners and subject knowledge. This will be continually reviewed and worked upon.



- ❖ We are creating a bank of in school resources (articles, podcasts & books) for staff. We aim to continually build our knowledge and understanding of history, racism and social justice.
- ❖ We are planning future whole school training in this area by external professionals.
- ❖ We are creating a Working Group made of parents, governors and staff members to ensure all voices are heard and engage our community to work towards achieving our commitments.
- ❖ We are attaching a parent's guide to Black Lives Matter to help facilitate important conversations at home and support our community to do so by providing resources.
- ❖ We are planning to ensure our newsletter provides frequent updates on our actions and resources.
- ❖ We plan to dedicate a section of our school website to share resources that celebrate diversity.

We recognise this is an on-going mission that will take time and need modification as we progress. We believe that as a team we can make a positive impact and create future change. We acknowledge that although we will always strive to do our very best, sometimes we might not get it right. We warmly welcome and celebrate community involvement, input and feedback.

If you wish to discuss this with myself, or a member of the senior leadership team, please email admin@stjudeslambeth.org. In addition to that, we will be writing to you again in the coming weeks to invite you to join the community led Working Group mentioned.

We remain committed to working with you to make St Jude's an inclusive, supportive and safe place for our whole community.

Regards

Miss New and the St Jude's Team

