



BAME Diversity Statement

At Walthamstow School for Girls we are incredibly proud of our rich and diverse school community.

The lockdown period was a difficult time for many in our community, with school closures taking away any real opportunity for us to group together and discuss the various challenges faced by all. Globally, we began to see the ongoing injustices committed towards black communities highlighted, particularly in the United States, where the lack of regard for black lives was brought to our attention by the tragic and horrific deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. These events over the summer period resonated with many, bringing communities together with a collective anger and frustration over the inequalities and injustices in our world.

Within our own school community, where our fundamental values are underpinned by an ethos of respect and equality for all, the question 'what more can we do?' resonated throughout the numerous discussions between staff, students, parents/carers and governors.

With this in mind, in June 2020, Ms Davies pledged her commitment to commence open and honest dialogues involving all members of our school community to challenge all forms of prejudice and to play an active role in changing the narrative to ensure everybody's voice in our community is valued and listened to and that we take responsibility for being part of a deep societal change.

We have commenced our journey: October is Black History Month where we are celebrating the achievements of black people past and present. The celebration of Black History continues throughout the curriculum.

As a school we plan to take this further by continuing our drive for even greater diversity and inclusion for all. For this to happen we believe that change should be made by listening to and engaging with our BAME communities.

We have a BAME group for our students to have a 'safe space' to voice their issues and concerns in relation to race and equality.

We would like to reach out to our wider community and ask for the support of parents and carers to engage with us on this important journey for our school. We value your input and welcome your ideas and involvement.

Real change will require a shift in the way we think and act as a whole and, working with our community groups, we aim to put the spotlight on developing greater equality in our school practices and in the curriculum that we deliver to our students.

This is an important time for us as a school to seize the moment in order to make a real contribution to change and to demonstrate how our common values are what unite us rather than divide us.