



## Unit 1: Religious Education – Introduction to RE at WHS What makes us diverse and what brings us together?

### 1. What is community, culture and cultural diversity?

- A community is a unified body of individuals with similar characteristics or interests.
- Culture refers to the ideas, customs, traditions and behaviours of a particular group or community.
- We are all members of different communities, which gives us a stronger sense of purpose and belonging.
- Strong, positive communities also help us to develop the tools we need for life's journey and support us.
  
- Cultural diversity is the idea that a community has lots of different ideas, customs, traditions and behaviours,
- Four ways in which the UK is culturally diverse:
  - (1) Different regions.
  - (2) Different countries.
  - (3) Different ethnic groups.
  - (4) Different religious groups.
- The census takes place every 10 years in England and Wales. It asks questions about every household which helps to build a detailed snapshot of our society.
- Learners explore their own ideas of 'Belonging' to a community as well as their understanding 'Britishness'
- Learners also explore the risks associated with belonging, such as peer pressure and grooming

### 2. How did the UK become a multicultural nation?

- The UK has been culturally influenced by different groups who have settled in the UK and brought their cultural traditions and values through:
  - **Invasion** - eg Romans, Anglo Saxons, Vikings and the Normans all invaded this island.
  - **Empire, Colonisation and Commonwealth** – Between the 1700s and 1900s, Britain built a huge Empire across the world which led to citizens from other countries settling in the UK to live and work.
  - **The slave trade** – was a feature of the British Empire that led to some former slaves settling in the UK.
  - **Historic labour shortages** - many men died during WW2, and the UK appealed for more workers from its former Empire, now known as the Commonwealth.
  - **Ongoing labour shortages** - every year in the UK there are sectors that do not have enough workers to meet the country's needs which has led to ongoing economic migration to the UK. The NHS is a good example, relying heavily on foreign workers.
  - **Protecting the innocent** - The UK also has a proud record of welcoming refugees from warzones European Union and 'freedom of movement
- In conclusion, the UK has always been a mongrel nation and the vast majority of us are descendants of people who arrived on boats in search of a better life.

### 3. What are the benefits of cultural diversity?

People being able to come and live, study or work in the UK from abroad can lead to:

- A more exciting and interesting society.
- New ideas and solutions to problems we have
- More skilled workers and less labour shortages
- More jobs being created through investment from big global companies.
- A more tolerant and inclusive community.
- Learners can apply these ideas to Manchester.

### 4. What are the challenges of cultural diversity?

A culturally diverse community might experience:

- Pockets of prejudice and discrimination
- Hate crime - eg story of Naveed Yasin
- Complex sense of identity – especially if a young person is brought up in a home with several contrasting cultural influences (eg religious belief)
- Learners can apply these ideas to the story of Ramla Ali, a female boxer and Olympian originally from war torn Somalia in Africa who fled to the UK as a child

### 5. What cultural traditions bring communities together?

- Community Cohesion is where a community has a shared sense of belonging and purpose.
- A cultural tradition is an event, ritual, custom or tradition that brings people together.
- Examples in the UK include: Remembrance Day, Bonfire Night, Comic Relief, Mother's Day / Father's Day, The London Marathon.
- Learners can explain how two examples of cultural traditions can strengthen community cohesion

### 6. What shared values bring communities together?

- Shared values are the beliefs and principles (rules for life) that brings a community together.
- We have some shared values in our school that brings our school community together: LEARN
- We also have some shared values in the UK which give us a strong sense of belonging and purpose, such as: rule of the law, representative democracy, personal freedom and equal opportunities.
- Students can explain each value and give examples of key features to do with this value in the UK.