

Cultural Competency Statement

At Bensham Manor we are wholly supportive of becoming a culturally competent school. Cultural competence is about learning to live positively in our diverse community and the world beyond. It's about deepening our knowledge and understanding of others and developing an increasing ability to empathise with those who are different from us; to recognise our common humanity. It's about celebrating diversity and the ways it enriches all our lives.

Culture itself can be defined as the customary beliefs, social norms, and material traits of a racial, religious or social group. We aim to help children develop a positive self-identity that incorporates understanding and respect for people with different characteristics. We also teach children about inequality and discrimination in our society, help pupils learn about the mechanisms through which inequality and discrimination work and engage them in thinking about how to build a fairer, better world.

As a school there is an requirement to “prepare learners for life in modern Britain by equipping them to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society; developing their understanding of fundamental British values; developing their own understanding and appreciation of diversity; celebrating what we have in common and promoting respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law.” (Ofsted 2019) These protected characteristics are defined in the Equalities Act, 2010 - age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

Through research and applied practice, we aim to become a culturally competent school so students can learn to become positive citizens in a supportive, nurturing and productive environment.