



**St Thomas of Canterbury School,**  
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**Head of School:** Liam Colclough  
**Executive Headteacher:** Andrew Truby

Dear parents/carers,

This is a letter written on behalf of the entire staff and Governing Body at St Thomas of Canterbury in response not primarily to the death of George Floyd, but in response to the call we all have as one community to challenge injustice and inequality wherever we find it.

Our children are growing up in an increasingly polarised world and our role, in partnership, is to equip them with a moral compass to enable them to be citizens of the world who can contribute, collaborate and provoke change in society.

'Faith Into Action' is a phrase we use daily with our children as we encourage them to translate God's love for them, and their love for God, into practical, grounded acts of kindness and love. Never has this been more necessary.

Our faith can be a great source of guidance here; the parable of the Good Samaritan is a perfect illustration to children of the importance of treating each and every individual with respect and love regardless of background, faith or colour and Jesus' teachings are all centred around kindness and compassion.

These times have been anything but peaceful, and we know it's taking a toll on parents, children, and communities. It can be overwhelming and daunting to address and discuss these issues with our children, but we must.

Our business is built on education — we know that when we are all equipped with effective tools, we can become the best versions of ourselves, our children become the very best version of themselves, and our world becomes a better place.

Now more than ever, we have an opportunity and an obligation to further our education on the difficult topics of race and racism—for the sake of our children, ourselves, and our world.

It is also important that as parents, you are able to see where we cover the issues we are seeing in society. For your reference we have included a breakdown of where and when equality, justice and tackling discrimination (in all its forms) are covered in an age appropriate way in our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education curriculum:





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	Relationships	Living In The Wider World
Pre-School	Understanding what makes us unique	Understanding that other people can have a different opinion and point of view of different situations
Reception	Understanding what makes us unique and appreciating differences between ourselves and others	
Year 1	How our behaviour affects other people and the importance of being respectful	Caring for the needs of others and taking into account the opinions and perspectives of others
Year 2	Recognising things in common and differences; working cooperatively in society	
Year 3	Recognising and promoting respectful behaviour, the importance of 'self-respect', courtesy and being polite	Understanding stereotypes The value of rules and laws: rights, freedoms and responsibilities
Year 4	Respecting differences and similarities; discussing difference sensitively	What makes a community; shared responsibilities
Year 5	Responding respectfully to a wide range of people; recognising prejudice and discrimination	Showing compassion towards others
Year 6	Expressing opinions and respecting other points of view, including discussing topical issues	Valuing diversity, challenging discrimination and stereotypes

We are continuing to refine and develop this curriculum on a regular basis to reflect the ever changing world we find ourselves in, and work is already underway to develop the content above for September 2020.

Below is a list of resources that may help you and your family — from how to talk to children about racism and the disturbing images they may have seen — to books parents can read to educate themselves — to book recommendations for children.



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Resources for talking to your children:

How to talk to children about racism and protests: an age-by-age guide:

<https://www.today.com/parents/how-talk-kids-about-racism-protests-injustice-t182929>

How do we teach our children anti-racism?

<https://www.today.com/parents/how-do-we-teach-our-children-anti-racism-these-resources-t182936>

Books for parents to read

<https://www.esquire.com/entertainment/books/g32733124/best-books-on-anti-racism/>

Books for children:

20 children's books celebrating race and diversity

<https://www.mother.ly/child/best-childrens-books-about-race-and-tolerance/beautiful-beautiful-me-book-by-ashley-sirah-hinton-illustrated-by-vanessa-brantley>

We sincerely hope you find this letter useful and reflective of the way in which we desire collectively to raise our children into young people who can become a beacon of our faith and use it to inspire change in the world.

We continue to wish you peace — peace in your home and family, and to thank you for your continued support and partnership during these times.

As we move forward, let us remember that Jesus tells us to “Love thy neighbour.” Let us also remember that there are no exceptions to this commandment, and let us teach our children the same both in word and deed.

In sincerity and prayer,

Mr Colclough and the staff at St Thomas of Canterbury School

The Board of Governors of St Thomas of Canterbury School

