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Head of School: Mrs S Hallsworth | Executive Head: Mr M Hetherington

Friday 17th January 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Religious Education research project - How can a focus on local lived experience impact the children's perception of Hindus?

As part of a Religious Education leadership course, I am carrying out an action research project across the three-year 3/4 classes. Culham St Gabriel's Trust, an endowed charitable foundation, is providing funding plus professional support for the course and research project. The purpose of the research is to develop best teaching and learning practice for enabling children to understand religious beliefs and experiences as real, lived experiences that include people from their local and broader community.

There are several potential benefits of this research, firstly, by emphasising personal and local stories, the children will develop a deeper, more empathetic understanding of Hinduism, challenging stereotypes. Children will gain critical thinking skills, empathy and a deeper understanding of their place in a broader community, as they connect what they learn to their own lives and experiences. It also encourages inclusivity and tolerance by helping the children recognise the diversity within Hindu communities and see individuals beyond their religious identity. Additionally, the project will also encourage personal growth, promoting respectful and open-minded attitudes.

The research will involve some observations of lessons and pupil voice conversations with myself and the children. All of the activities will take place within ordinary lesson time and there will be no extra demands on the children. The project will take place in the spring term. Lessons will be timetabled as normal Religion and worldviews lessons currently are and so all children will take part in these, unless withdrawn from RE. Participation in the pupil voice sessions and the children's work being used as part of the research is purely voluntary, with a right to withdraw at any time. If you decide not to participate there will be no other effects on your child's education. Could you please discuss this with your child at home, and notify the school office on the email address below if you would like to withdraw consent, now or at any time?

It is intended that the results of the research will be published. Your child's identity and privacy will be protected by anonymising all names – if he or she is quoted, pseudonymous initials will be used. We are not planning to use or publish photos or videos of any children.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact me via the school office.
info@scargill.derbyshire.sch.uk

With thanks

Mrs Zoë Higgins

