

A High Performing Specialist School

Headteacher: Mr. Paramjit Bhutta

8th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for raising your concerns regarding the letter about our 'Culture Day' for Year 7 pupils.

I am sorry this letter has caused offence. It was not at all intended. To reassure you, at Mulberry Stepney Green we always listen to parents, students, staff and the school community and, following your feedback, I am very happy for students to attend this exciting and fulfilling event in thoubes and abayas if they wish. I value the time you have taken to draw your concerns to my attention and fully appreciate them.

To explain, the school council at Mulberry Stepney Green is organising this event. Students set out what they wished to happen, including dress and activities for the day. It was designed to be a positive celebration of global citizenship, human unity and mutual respect. This includes – of course – faith as an important part of identity. Sometimes understanding about dress is not always clear and so this is valuable learning.

The school has always had a deep respect for Islam, the faith of most students at the school and many staff. We have prayer, we take account of holy festivals and fasting, and our ethos reflects the values and way of living of Islam. Our food, uniform and other important aspects of school life are constructed to be culturally and religiously sensitive.

I am very proud to have spent the last 18 years of my working life serving this community. I have made it my priority to ensure that young Muslim men (and latterly, as we have become co-ed, young Muslim women too) are highly successful – that they are equipped with an education that sees them into university and with the skills to be confident ambassadors for the culture, faith and identity – challenging Islamophobia in the most positive of ways whenever they see it and working to build a cohesive and respectful society.

My personal view is that one's culture and faith are an important part of our lives. The school community that I serve is made up of nearly 100% of Muslim students and 40% of Muslim staff. My role is to ensure that the school community is able to practice their faith and that is what I have always done.

Please accept my apology for any upset. We will be contacting parents who have written to me on Monday. If you would like to speak to us, please email the school reception.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Bhutta,
Executive Headteacher

Part of the

Mulberry
Schools Trust

