



## Diversity, equality and inclusion through children's literature

At Branston Church of England Infant Academy, reading is not just at the heart of our curriculum but also it is central to our community. Through our exploration of children's literature we promote a 'windows and mirrors' approach to open the 'window' to other cultures, ways of life and protected characteristics. We also share books with the children that reflect their own lives, heritage and background in order to ensure that the children's lives are represented in our community. In school, we have a vast array of books which we share with the children based on protected characteristics. These are displayed in a central location in the school so children can select them to read as a class or to each other.



Another way in which we explore diversity, equality and inclusion is through out weekly book votes. Two books are selected each week and are linked to a topic which is prevalent to a social issue or cultural celebration

which is taking place that week (for example, Pride or black History Month). The children are then asked to vote for their choice of book and the winning book is read by the Headteacher later in the day to all children. The children vote for these books as they enter the school with their parents. It promotes discussion around the books between children and their parents, and hopefully sparks further conversations

at home time when they reveal the chosen book.

Our reading spine is also mapped carefully to ensure that a range of authors, themes and characters are portrayed. These books are studied through the term so that the children have a deeper understanding of the themes that have been written about. To further promote diversity equality and inclusion, we have a 'Spotlight on...' display, in which we chose a particular author or theme which we are focusing on for that month. This enable the children to become familiar with one particular author or range of books, and allows them to make connections. This develops our 'windows and mirrors' approach as it gives the children a greater depth of books around one particular aspect.

