

Unique Week – celebrating Neurodiversity at Bolney CEP School

Bolney C.E.P. School's Whole Child Vision



Each child is unique. We partner with families to nurture the 'whole child' – by understanding their specific emotional, spiritual and learning needs – so children flourish.

Children leave us as fearless lifelong learners, ready to meet the world with self-confidence, curiosity and resilience.

Be the best you can, guided by God.

Our school's Vision statement begins with 'Each Child is Unique' and at Bolney CEP our curriculum is carefully shaped to ensure that **all** children can achieve and flourish. Over the course of the last week in school, the children have been learning more about what being unique means through the introduction of the term 'neurodiversity' and by understanding the concept that everyone has a differently wired brain and their own unique way of thinking and experiencing the world and that that is positive. Here at Bolney, we want the children to be proud of their individuality and to celebrate their differences and uniqueness and with this in mind, Mrs Harvey started the week by sharing a book in assembly called 'It's Ok To Be Different' by Todd Parr which the children really enjoyed.

Over the course of the week, the children spent time in class unpicking terms such as Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia and also thinking about their own mental wellbeing. Ultimately, we want the children to be able to talk openly and ask questions because knowledge is power. Sometimes people can be unkind to others purely because they don't understand something, so by empowering our children with the tools to understand, it will lead to kinder words and actions being shown towards those who may be perceived as different.

Unique Week is also about recognizing hard work, resilience and determination which serves as a reminder that no matter what our differences and challenges, everyone also has their own strengths and talents. This is very much reflected in the Bolney school values of Respect, Resilience, Honesty and Love.

Following class discussions, the children came up with these top support tips to follow:

- *Don't tease or make fun of anyone in your class who is different or who is finding something difficult.*
- *Instead, be kind, understanding and encouraging.*
- *Never forget that you have the power to make a positive difference to someone who may be having a difficult time.*

It was surprising for the children to discover the number of musicians, actors, inventors, entrepreneurs and even astronauts who are neurodivergent. The following website has a plethora of information to help with questions that children might have at home on the subject:

<https://www.neurodiversityweek.com/>

The children ended the week by producing posters to celebrate uniqueness and neurodiversity and these are displayed around the school. This is by no means a one off week; the school will continue

to reflect on how we can be the best we can be in work and play and one of the next ways we will be doing this is through updating the school's Anti-Bullying Policy. This will be done with the children by unpicking such terms as 'safe' and 'bully' in order for the children to truly understand what bullying looks like and trusting that the adults working with them will make sure that Bolney CEP continues to be a happy, safe and caring environment, guided by God.

We are the utopian dreamers.

The invisible pioneers.

The vulnerable change-makers.

The compassionate healers.

We are the creative pathfinders.

The quiet adventurers.

The accidental discoverers.



Sarah Harvey SENDCo