



Diversity at Saint John Wall Catholic School

Hello, my name is Favour and my name is Fadilat, and today we are here to learn more about how diverse our school is. And if you are wondering what diversity is? Diversity is a variety of different things and in this case ethnicities and backgrounds.

We will also talk about the importance of equality and celebrating our different characteristics, races and origins.

We interviewed Mr Lysaght, Lay Chaplain.

1. How diverse is St John Wall School?

“This is a very diverse school. Even though we are a Catholic school, we are extremely proud and always love to celebrate the diversity of our school. We have over 50 languages spoken in our school and a range of different religions and cultures. This is something that we celebrate regularly through our Afternoon Prayer, our Cultural Heritage Day and our different religious periods.”

2. There are many pupils from different backgrounds and friendships are created between everyone, just how unique is this to see?

“This is very unique to see. It is very nice to see that a lot of our friendship groups are made up of individuals of different backgrounds. This is especially nice to see during periods of different religious events, when pupils discuss and learn more about the diversity of our school and our pupils.”

3. How does St John Wall celebrate the diversity in school, are there events that take place in the year?

“St John Wall is a very diverse school. There are many different events that take place to celebrate this. One of the events that take place every year in October is Cultural Heritage Day. This is a day when all staff and pupils are invited to dress in their cultural clothes – a day when we can celebrate the diversity and the backgrounds of all our staff and pupils.

We also have a variety of special days in our canteen to celebrate the diversity of our staff and pupils. For example, in recent months, we have had special menus for Chinese New Year and for St Patrick’s Day. Every day at St John Wall, we also have an Afternoon

Prayer. Each day, the prayer is a different theme and often cover different cultural events – most recently, Ramadan for all our Muslim brothers and sisters.”

4. Just how important is it to learn about all the different cultures from around the world?

“Learning about different cultures is very important for a lot of different reasons. One reason is that it can help us to appreciate the diversity of our community and to appreciate the range of experiences that everyone can bring. It can also help us to look at our own views and to develop our views of the world. It is also important to learn about different experiences and traditions in our day to day life.”

5. Do you think it is important to learn a new language and can this help people understand different cultures and their traditions better?

“Yes, I think that learning a language is very important. This is one thing that I miss about school, being able to have lessons in Spanish and German. Learning a new language can help to see how others view the world and to help us to understand their values. It can also help you to view the practices of people from different cultures and can allow you to appreciate different forms of traditions including music and art.”