



**Woodheys Primary School Sale Cheshire
Peace Mala Gold Award Evidence May 2017**



Area 1

Becoming a Peace Mala School is part of the whole School Development Plan approved by staff and the Governing Body. This is shared with the whole school community. A chosen year group will need to study and explore Peace Mala by using the kits and educational materials during a particular term every year. This encourages Peace Mala continuity in the school curriculum. The school will also share good practice with other schools who are members of the global community of Peace Mala.

As a school, we celebrate the diversity of faiths, cultures and lifestyles. Part of the reason we are so successful at doing this, is through our work with the Peace Mala. Laura Roberts, Head teacher of Woodheys School says:

"Being a Peace Mala School has transformed our lives and provided amazing opportunities for our pupils, including participation in October 2010 in the Peace Mala Festival of Interfaith and Culture for Education at Gorton Monastery on the Feast of St Francis on behalf of Greater Manchester Schools."

All of the Peace Mala work that we do is regularly fed back to the School Governors, through Laura Roberts. They are informed of all the opportunities it has led to and all of the benefits it provides not just to the children, but also the staff and the wider community. Monthly newsletters are sent to parents from the school notifying them of all the work the children and the school are involved in relating to the Peace Mala and British Values work.

Along the school corridors there are a variety of vibrant displays that are designed to encourage the children to have tolerance, understanding and to embrace differences between them. All of these are messages encouraged by the wearing of the Peace Mala bracelet. We completed an Art and RE project with Altrincham College of Art where the theme had a multi faith approach, celebrating the diversity of religions within our school community. We looked at our understanding of faith symbols and produced a beautiful ceramic wall plaque. This is displayed outside our Nursery, overlooking the stunning labyrinth. The ceramic work was led by Art Specialist Sharon Blakey in conjunction with community artist Clare Hartley.

Our school hall previously displayed the six main religions. These interfaith displays were made by the children and were regularly used as talking points during whole school



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assemblies and assemblies with an audience of parents. The display boards now show the continents of the world, encouraging children to explore the different cultures around the world. Other displays around the school include one produced by a local Muslim Teaching Assistant, who painted a mural depicting six children of all different faiths. The display informs children of the holy book and place of worship for each faith.

Another one was created by a local artist, Gillian Parish, who worked with the Year One's to design a Noah's Ark painting in our playground with the quote 'Remember God is love'. Gillian was also commissioned to do another mural with Year 3 children on the interconnectedness of our world through the strands of nature in our world wide web of life. We have a weekly Peace group that children can attend at lunchtime that is run by local Baha'is. They have beautifully decorated our allotment shed with a quote from the faith that reads 'We are the flowers of one garden'.

Our school web page: www.woodheysprimaryschool.co.uk has an area dedicated to the Peace projects that we are involved in. It also has an area with information about all of the faiths on, which can be visited by parents, children and people in the wider community.

We are the Trafford RE hub school for all teacher training which fed in to the Greater Manchester RE hub. This has meant that Laura was involved in updating the RE policy for Trafford. She promotes Peace Mala as an optional unit that Trafford schools can use. As well as this on behalf of the Greater Manchester RE hub, Laura co coordinated two conferences at Gordon Monastery and two at The Britannia Conference Centre. The Truce Ambassadors Conference included presentations by our school and key note speakers include Lat Blaylock, editor of the 'RE Today' magazine and Lord Bates, who was involved with the Olympics and Paralympics. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to share good practice with other local schools and encourage their involvement in Peace Mala projects. Laura also sits as head teacher representative on Trafford SACRE.

A former School Improvement Partner and Link Advisor for Primary Education with Trafford Council said:

"We found the Peace Mala projects Woodheys are involved in to be very inspirational, leading the school to be in touch with people such as Desmond Tutu and the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. The launch of the Agreed RE Syllabus has been a wonderful community cohesion and inclusion project which will benefit all our local schools and



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we are delighted to be able to offer Peace Mala and all its corresponding teaching and educational resources as an option within the new syllabus at primary and secondary level."

As part of our on-going School Development plan Peace Mala is integrated in to our Year 3 RE education. The children produce the bracelet and learn about the unifying message of peace across all the world's religions. The Golden Rule, embraced within all the faiths of the Peace Mala bracelet provides the essence of our teaching and this message is displayed around the school along with British Values.

Promoting peace is the ethos of Woodheys. Bringing together all religions, races and cultures, celebrating differences and similarities and embracing every type of person is the message promoted by children and all the staff at the school. We want to teach the children to be kind, loving and peaceful and to spread the message as far as we can. We have been able to spread our message across the globe through our Peace Cranes project. Year 4 children learnt about World War Two and this included finding out about Hiroshima. This led on to them creating Peace Cranes that have been sent around the world to countries in conflict and also countries that we have had links with through our projects throughout this year. This includes schools in Africa, through our Afritwin project and to Turkey, Spain and Latvia, through our Comenius project. Each of these schools have visited us and seen our wonderful labyrinth, Zen garden and rainbow room, all ideas which they thought were wonderful. To start them on their journey we sent each of these schools a peace pole to unite us all and encourage them to promote interfaith and multi culture in their schools.

In Year 6, every child is reminded of the Peace Mala message and is gifted a Peace Mala by our Parents' Association. Our children complete their education with us as Global citizens of the future and Peace Mala Ambassadors.



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Peace Mala Bracelets

Year 3 is the year group chosen to study and explore peace mala. They enjoyed making a peace mala bracelet and gained further knowledge and understanding about the symbols behind each colour.



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The Year 3 classes are always so excited to make and wear their bracelets.

Corridor displays



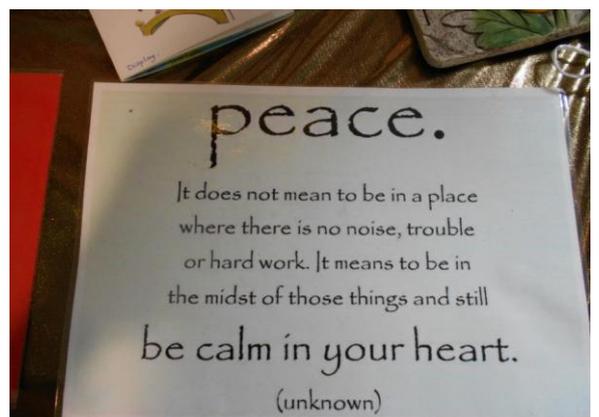
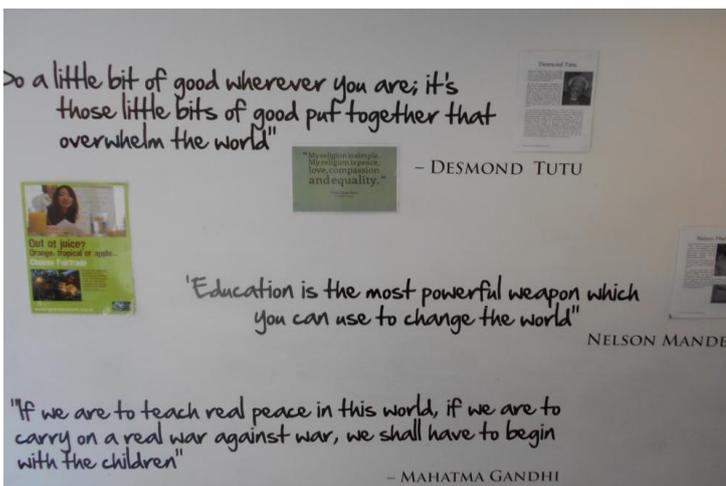
At Woodheys, we are so proud of our vibrant displays that promote cultural diversity.



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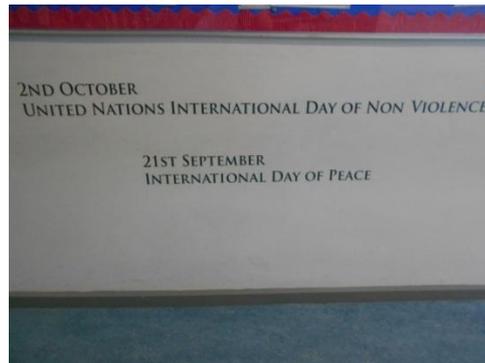


The peace quotes which appear on the walls throughout the school pay homage to significant world leaders and advocates of peace.





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UKS2 did a project with Mrs. Mimura whose children also attended the school. The family celebrated their Japanese heritage and Kyoko, the mother came into school to demonstrate how to make peace cranes. We display these with pride around our school and we are now linked with a school in Hiroshima thanks to the Mimura family who decided to move back to Japan.



Ryan and Helen are standing proud in front of our beautiful peace display. We were so grateful to receive instructions from our partner school in Hiroshima on



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Year 4 did a project on the atrocities that occurred in Hiroshima following their work on WW2. The children did a project-type homework in which they could display their research on the subject. The children also enjoyed making Peace dove fingerprints in which they used different colours to display what they thought the values of peace were. We also linked with the Year 1's to make a rainbow of peace. The year 4's enjoyed being the teachers for the afternoon and looking after the younger members of our school.



The display is a great visual reminder that working together as a team can achieve amazing things. This echoes our school motto of

Together Everyone Achieves More

Area 2

By engaging with Peace Mala the school is committed to education for global citizenship through the promotion of understanding, respect, friendship, tolerance and peace between all communities, cultures and enlightened, compassionate faiths. Peace Mala promotes and encourages community cohesion.

Through our PSHCE lessons children explore prejudice. They learn about differences through looking at examples and discussing terms such as stereotyping, racism, prejudice, ethnicity and ethnic pride. All of these messages are reinforced by the Golden Rule of the Peace Mala. The lesson that we teach the children is that it is very important to respect themselves, others and belongings and this is emphasised through our school's Golden rules. An important lesson for the children is to understand that as children they have rights, but they also have responsibilities. In PSHCE, the children are taught all about the special rights that they have as children and they are encouraged to think of the responsibilities that come



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with this. This helps them to understand that as well as having rights, and children all over the world, also have to be responsible for their actions.

We are extremely privileged at Woodheys, as we are constantly visited by members of a range of faiths. The children regularly have assemblies led by different faith leaders and are often given the opportunity to work with classes throughout the day so they can learn more about the faith. We have had visits from Buddhist monks, Roop Singh, who is a Sikh storyteller, Raz Ul Huq, who is an Islamic artist, Rob Grinter who represents the Humanist faith and Ann Angel, a local Jew, to name a few. One of our Peace assemblies has included celebrating peace around the world on the United Nations International Day of Peace. It began with an introduction by Glenda Thornton from 'May Peace Prevail on Earth', who explained all about what she does and about the flag ceremony that was about to take place. An uplifting video was shown which depicted a range of schools and groups promoting peace around the world and then a flag ceremony took place. The 54 full size special flags were made under sacred conditions in Bali and were paraded around the school hall. Each flag was taken to the centre of the hall and the words 'May Peace Prevail in (name of country's flag)' were chanted.



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This is probably one of the most highly anticipated events of the school year. It brings together all members of the school and wider community. A great celebration of the school's cultural diversity and a way to unite people through good food.





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Visit from the Buddhist monk



May Peace Prevail on Earth; one of 4 peace poles that are in and around Woodheys Primary School.

Woodheys was so lucky to have a visit from Ahbay Rinpoche, a Tibetan Buddhist monk, back in March. The Year 4 children were proud to host our wonderful guest and he was so impressed with our beautiful Zen garden.



Here is Mrs Roberts addressing the audience and welcoming our special guest. It was such a beautiful setting



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Area 3

By using Peace Mala in the classroom, the school supports human rights and helps prevent bullying and all forms of prejudice.

Woodheys is a community of over 400 children and adults. We are very proud of the fact that our school is a community from over 20 countries around the world and we enjoy celebrating this. Bi- annually we host an International Evening where families are invite to cook food from their country of origin and bring it in to school to share with other families. This is an extremely popular event where parents and children enjoy sampling foods from around the world and sharing in the joy of experiencing new flavours together.

From 'grass roots' our children in Nursery, Foundation Stage and Key Stage One have a quality introduction to the actual lives of children of different faiths and cultures. Children are shown 'Child's Eye Media' films of faith and culture as seen from the view point of children their age. Child's Eye Media have actually visited our school to see the work we do linked to their films. They were so impressed; they took a photo of our children of different faiths and cultures in our labyrinth and used this as part of a calendar they produced. Actual pupils and families within our school are encouraged to come and share their experiences first hand. The classrooms of these age phases complete art work and have role play areas linked to celebrations and places around the world.

Our P.S.H.C.E. lessons at Woodheys include a strong global dimension, reflecting the fact that around 40% of our pupils come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Our aim is to highlight and celebrate both cultural differences and similarities in order to challenge all forms of prejudice and stereotyping. The children look at children around the world who do not have basic human rights and this enables them to have a greater understanding of why we raise money for charity through organisations such as Children in Need and Comic/ Sport Relief, and how we can help.

As with most schools we have an anti- bullying policy and bullying is a lesson that is taught in each year group through lessons and also through assemblies. In relation to this we have a quiet club that children can engage with at playtimes, run by our Intergen volunteers who encourage multi generation in our school.



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Area 4

Peace Mala encourages the school to raise awareness of issues of global interdependence and encourages active compassion by learners that will lead to positive changes locally and globally.

As a school we regularly give to charities. We raise money through a variety of means including own clothes days and it is a wonderful way to get the children involved and give them a deeper understanding of how we can be compassionate and work towards making both local and global positive changes. Along the corridors, we have displays of inspirational quotes from important people, from a range of backgrounds, who have made the world a better place through raising money, charities, technology, science etc. to encourage the children to fulfil their potential and reach their goals.

Due to an increasing number of different faiths attending Woodheys, Mrs. Roberts attended a two year interfaith course making many links to different places of worship and faith leaders in the community. Mrs Roberts has also visited many places of worship that link to our pupils and has visited many children's homes. She then shares her experiences in assemblies, using photographs to enhance children's understanding.

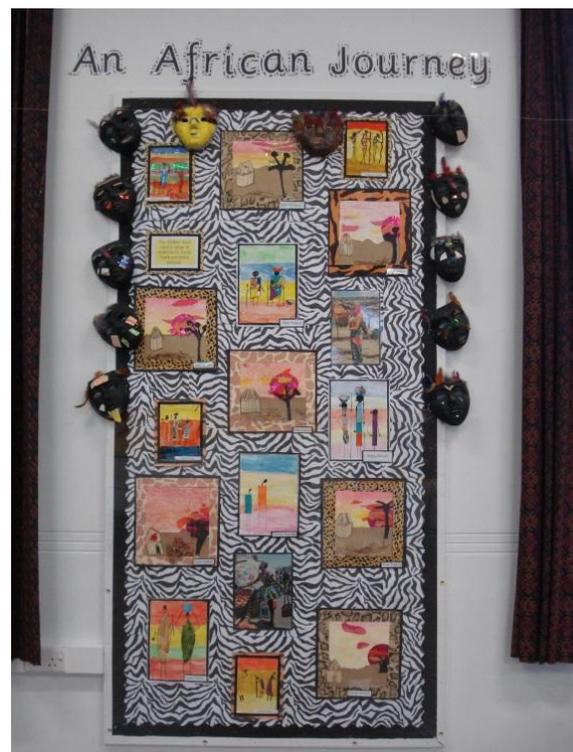
Children at Woodheys have a rich tapestry of exposure to visual and oral representations of faith, enabling our community to work together with tolerance and understanding. As part of our RE lessons each year group tries to visit a different place of worship so that by the time the children have reached secondary school, they will have already experienced a wide range of sacred places. In year 3 for example, children visit the Hindu temple, it is a great way for children to see first-hand how Hindus worship and what their beliefs are. This encourages understanding and compassion for all people.

To raise the children's awareness of the world they live in and how people and countries are special and unique we have set up a travelling bear, Barney. The children have learnt about various countries and continents around the world and have enjoyed learning about their cultures, dress, food, languages etc. The children have tasted food from around the world and have explored where countries are in relation to England. The children at Woodheys are



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fortunate to travel to lots of different places so we have been able to send Barney bear on holiday with lots of children. They have enjoyed sharing their experiences through photographs and our 'Barney Bear Book'. This book and the photographs have been used to create a lovely 'Around the World' display in our corridors which the children have enjoyed.





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The school worked hard to create a bank of beautiful continental displays.



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Area 5

Peace Mala encourages the celebration of cultural, racial and religious diversity through art, music, drama and dance.

A few years ago, we worked with three other schools across Europe (Latvia, Turkey and Spain) as part of the Comenius project funded by the British Council. Over the experience we took part in a number of joint projects and each school has taken it in turn to host teachers and pupils from the other schools. The project intended to motivate students to broaden their horizon and achieve more. They were required to collect cultural information about the participating countries, communicate in a foreign language and become more tolerant towards different cultures. Probably, the most important outcome of this partnership was that we established relationships between the different countries. We also wanted to clarify and promote the idea of a united Europe to facilitate, in the future, student's integration in the European educational/labour market. We hoped to bring Europe closer to our students and teachers, and to make them aware of the vast range of possibilities that Europe offers to them. Also, we wanted to spread the European dimension to the families and local communities by means of the students themselves and by the regional media.

Each year, we organise a Spanish and Arts Day. The children and staff dress in traditional Spanish dress or the colours of the Spanish flag and the day is filled with Spanish art activities, we have native speakers in assembly and working with the children, dancers that teach children flamenco and Salsa and at lunch time the menu is traditionally Spanish. It is a day enjoyed by all involved and the activities we do, amongst many others, contributed to us being awarded Arts Mark Gold. We are currently collating evidence towards becoming an Arts Mark Platinum school.

At school, we continue to encourage the acceptance of cultural diversity and are active in promoting unity and acceptance. When tragedies such as the recent Manchester bombing at the MEN arena occurred, we were quick to encourage children to remember that we are a



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united city and by inviting a range of faith leaders in we hoped to spread the positive message of peace and tolerance to the children no matter what religion or race you are.



Calligraphy with Raz



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Area 6

With Peace Mala the school actively promotes environmental sustainability, healthy eating, and respect for all animals and wildlife.

At Woodheys, children and teachers are encouraged to work on the promotion and understanding of the concept of peace both locally and nationally. Our environmental work particularly helps as most environmental problems transcend national boundaries and therefore require solutions that are mutually reinforced at global, regional, national and community levels.



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Environmental sustainability plays a large part in our school life. We are fortunate to have amazing outdoor areas at our school that we fully engage with in our lessons. This includes a 'Zen Garden' with sand pit, water feature and Buddhist statue – blessed by Buddhist nuns from the local temple, an on-site labyrinth for meditation, relaxation, spiritual awareness and understanding of pilgrimages and a Labyrinth. We have a Wild Area and an allotment with beds for each year group to grow their own fruit and vegetables. Mr Brett applied for an award for our allotment. Nicky, our cleaner works with Mr Brett and the Eco- council to care for the beds.

We have also brought the outdoors in as our school library theme is the environment. We have painted flowers on the wall and we have 'grasses' on the floor. Mr Bloom, a popular children's TV personality visited us to ask the children about all the wonderful learning they do about the environment. One of the charities that we work with is the Lower Moss Wood Hedgehog Sanctuary, where we annually collect cat food to help the hedgehogs. The children in Key Stage One also visit their each year.

The children have lessons on Healthy Eating during PSHCE and through various science topics across the school. They learn all about food groups, benefits of each group and how to produce a healthy plate of food. The hot lunches provided by the school kitchen are also nutritious and well balanced and soon.

Area 7

With Peace Mala the school encourages Peace Education by forming a School Peace Council and engaging in peace activities.

At the front of our school we have a labyrinth which children can use to have peaceful and calm thoughts in. Medieval labyrinths were first developed during the 9th and 10th centuries and are commonly found in medieval churches and cathedrals in Europe. People walk labyrinths for stress relief, anger and pain management, focus and meditation. When you draw a labyrinth or trace its shape with your finger it helps to balance your right and left brain. This expands your potential and enhances your capabilities. It is especially good for children, enabling them to do better at school and develop their latent talents.



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We also have a remembrance rose garden where each child has a stick they have pushed in the soil, with words on that they have written in memory of a special person or animal. They learn about bereavement annually in PSCHE. We also have a Zen garden in the centre of the school that has been blessed by local Buddhist monks. This is home to our two metre peace pole which we erected in commemoration of the tragedy of 9/11. It bears the words, ‘May Peace Prevail on Earth’.

At the front of school we have a Peace tree which is decorated with Buddhist prayer flags. Annually it is covered with rainbow ribbons to celebrate International Day. In 2015, we were awarded the first ‘Peaceful school’ award in the country by Spiritual England. We were also rewarded Religious Education Quality Mark Gold 2016 for our schools’ influence on religion and peace education. We are also working on a research project with Cambridge University department. The project is focussing on the qualities of children who don’t take part in bullying activities and are peaceful individuals. We also have an anti- bullying club at school, ran by one of our Teaching Assistants, where children engage in activities to spread the message to end bullying.

Yoga and meditation are peaceful activities that Reception and Key Stage One classes are involved in. The Rainbow Room is an intervention that children can become involved in if they require relaxation, anger management issues, help with trauma etc. This is run by local Holistic therapists and they come to school to work with these children to promote mental wellbeing.



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The Labyrinth



Our beautiful labyrinth is such a special part of the soul of Woodheys. Each year group uses the labyrinth for different purposes. Here are some of the Year 2's having a fun adventure – exactly as life should be.





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The Rainbow Room



There are many children at the school who greatly benefit from their sessions in the Rainbow room. The session is led by specialists who are exceptionally gifted at communicating with young people and helping them to find light in times of darkness.