



Loving minds ♥ hearts ♥ hands.

Shared Values

Rationale: From time to time international incidents and acts of terrorism have an impact in the community we serve, which in turn leads to conversations and dialogue in school between pupils and with staff and pupils. Sadly the Beirut and Paris terrorist attacks are unlikely to be only the incidents that challenge our positive social cohesion in school. Therefore we feel it is sensible to formulate a common response and approach to questions and conversations as they arise.

Proposal: To adopt the term DAESH in preference to ISIS/ IS /ISIL/ ISLAMIC STATE across the school initially by staff with the ultimate aim that this becomes the norm for all at WPA. Following a number of incidents and conversations in school in the aftermath of the Beirut and Paris terrorist attacks it is proposed that the term DAESH be used in preference to the common terms ISIS/IS/ISIL/ ISLAMIC STATE.

1. The repeated use of the terms Islamic (state), Islamist (terrorists) is having a detrimental effect on the wellbeing and sense of security of some Muslim pupils.
2. The explicit link that many commentators make between Islam and violence is causing friction between Muslim and Non-Muslim pupils and between pupils and staff. This is particularly the case where pupils are exposed to often offensive and provocative social media postings that seek to divide communities and promulgate extreme views.
3. The use of the term DAESH is preferable because it confers no legitimacy by faith or national association.
4. DAESH is a pun on a pejorative Arabic term meaning *one who sows disunity* and is widely used by those opposed to the aims and agenda of this group.
5. This proposal must go hand in hand with an effort to address the nature of current events and the persistent undercurrent of dissatisfaction with media coverage of the loss of lives and their comparative values as recently highlighted by the contrasting coverage of the attacks in Beirut and Paris.
6. This proposal is intended to maintain the calm and purposeful atmosphere at WPA and help to prevent any descent into community tensions. It is acknowledged that individual staff and pupils may well have different opinions. The proposal is in no way to deny their right to freedom of expression neither is it an attempt to show favour to one identity over any other.
7. Many staff will never have conversations with pupils about these matters but should be aware of the issues involved and the significance of language in line with our statutory safeguarding responsibilities.

Ruth Vayro
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