

Academy stages performances for primary school children

■ DANCE: Horton Grange Primary School pupils with the Punjabi Roots Academy



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A special two weeks of learning were held last month, as Horton Grange Primary School's youngsters got hands on with promoting equality in the classroom.

With more than 700 children attending the school, Horton Grange is one of the biggest Primary educational establishments in Bradford and boasts an array of nationalities and religions within the classrooms.

Already recognised as one of the leading schools in the country for promoting diversity, the school was the first nationally to receive the Stephen Lawrence Award at Level Two. The accolade recognises the extensive work done by the school to promote cohesion in the multi-cultural society.

The Interfaith fortnight included a host of activities which gave the children a chance to learn about

different religious and non-religious faiths, whilst every year group were allocated a specific religion to study throughout the programme.

The Punjabi Roots Academy staged a number of performances for all the children earlier this week and entertained the crowds with their unique dance and performance act.

The Academy were the latest guests at the school who were invited to promote diversity, with the likes of the Make Bradford British cast, and Show Racism the Red Card representatives previously holding workshops to spread similar messages.

Ms Niela Ahmed, RE and Equality Co-ordinator, has been working at the school for 13 years and believes there is no other establishment quite like Horton Grange.

She explained: "I love working here, it is a fantastic place to be even with the 700 pupils we have."

"We are a multi-faith,

multicultural school who aim to promote tolerance and understanding to the children in an attempt to build a cohesive community here in Bradford.

"It is vitally important that children recognise everybody is unique in their own way, yet at the same time we are also the same. Every person is a human being at the end of the day and therefore we try to spread this message as much as we can."

"The Stephen Lawrence award is a great honour and represents how much our school actually does to promote equality."

Children from a number of religions and nationalities all currently attend the Bradford school, with pupils coming from as far as Somalia and Libya. A

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dedicated Language Support Unit has been put in place to cater for the pupils and help integrate them into the educational system.

Even with a number of challenges and hurdles overcome the school were labelled 'Good' in their latest OFSTED report, highlighting they really do live by their motto 'Celebrating Success Together'.