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.
At Baguley Hall School we have been celebrating the diversity of faiths, cultures and lifestyles since 2014. This developed from a cluster meeting involving Newall Green, Benchill and Baguley Hall Primary Schools in June 2014 where Shelley Lynton (Peace Mala Co-ordinator for Newall Green) introduced ‘Peace Mala’ to an extremely inspired Kate Bulman (our Head Teacher). Kate then spoke to teacher Amy Grundy who immediately became an advocate of this inspirational organisation. From that day onwards our school began a passionate journey to gaining Peace Mala accreditation which we successfully achieved in 2015.

Our journey has been exciting and incredibly rewarding; it has been a real privilege for all members of staff to observe the impact the teachings of Peace Mala have had upon our children. Every member of staff has played a part in our journey. We can confirm, on behalf of everybody at Baguley Hall that we are dedicated to ensuring that this vital message of peace continues for many years to come.

The original launch of Peace Mala at Baguley Hall Primary School (2014)

All Peace Mala work that we do is regularly fed back to the School Governors, through our present Peace Mala Co-ordinator Olivia Robinson, and Kate Bulman. They are informed of all the opportunities it has led to and all of the benefits it provides not just for the children, but also the staff and the wider community. Half termly 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. In addition we have whole-school Peace days throughout the year to celebrate the different faiths and foster the, ever so important, message of peace and kindness. We ensure that celebrations of this nature end with after-school events involving families and friends of the children and staff at the school; this allows the message of peace to spread out to the wider community too.
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. These messages are embedded by the wearing of the Peace Mala bracelet which is supplied not only to the Year 3 cohort but also to staff across the school. **Since the introduction of Peace Mala in 2014, the staff dress code policy has been amended and wearing a Peace Mala bracelet is now a non-negotiable uniform requirement for all members of staff.**
In July 2017 Olivia Robinson, along with KS2 Peace Pals were delighted to be involved in the Peace Mala International Interfaith Liturgy for World Peace held at Llandaff Cathedral in Wales. In preparation, we met with children from Newall Green Primary to practise our peace song with Lee Walton, composer of the Peace Mala Anthem. We
then fed this back to our school with an assembly led by the children where they described what happened on the day and gave some information about all the different faiths that attended the special ceremony. We also taught them the Peace Mala Anthem which we now sing in assemblies throughout the year.

Baguley Hall pupils at the Peace Mala event in Llandaff Cathedral Wales

Last year we introduced a new behaviour policy which is based upon the core beliefs of Peace Mala. All children and adults should be treated with respect and staff were given training on how to use positive and peaceful language with the children. This has been incredibly successful and we have witnessed a noticeable improvement in children’s behaviour. All members of staff promote the Golden Rule to remind children how to behave towards others. This is now embedded in day to day language at Baguley.

At Baguley Hall we are incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by children and families who have different heritages, cultures and religions. To highlight our pride in becoming a more multi-cultural school, we have made the decision as a whole-school
that all morning welcomes will be said in a variety of languages that are linked to different religions. To ensure that every child and staff member’s views are fully supported, we have introduced a prayer/quiet reflection room. This is a calm, safe space which is now utilised by many throughout the day.

We were delighted when Year 3 and 4 were selected to be involved in an Art project linked to The British Museum. The artwork was based around the messages of Peace Mala, such as kindness, respect, tolerance, love and peace. The children worked passionately to create the beautiful pieces of art, which are now displayed on the outside of the school building, for all to see. The project was a real success and lead to us gaining The Discover Arts Award. This has proved to be a fantastic talking point for visitors to our school and clear way of promoting our Peace Mala ethos.

There are also other key pieces of artwork displayed around the school, for example, above the stage in our main hall there are two large, wooden, Peace Mala doves. These were designed, painted and decorated by the children; each child took a real pride in ensuring that their coloured glass bead was placed in the correct position on the wings of the dove.
Our school web page has an area dedicated to Peace Mala and faith projects that we have been involved in. This is updated regularly and we encourage all parents, children and people in the wider community to access this freely.

Since 2014, children have benefited from the integration of Peace Mala into our RE curriculum throughout the school. Peace Mala is taught across the school. However, in Year 3 children follow the Peace Mala curriculum explicitly which includes making their own Peace Mala bracelet, an activity the children get very excited about! This year we attempted to get involved with the Small Steps for Peace project but unfortunately, due to funding restrictions, we were unable to do so. We will continue to pursue this and will hopefully get the chance to participate with a future event.

Promoting peace is the ethos of Baguley Hall. 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. All staff have received the Prevent training to ensure that we are equipped to recognise and keep all children, staff and families safe from radical behaviour.

We have been incredibly fortunate as we have been able to spread our message across the globe to Zambia through our link project with Primary Schools in this country. Teachers from our school have taught Peace Mala lessons to Zambian children and explained the importance of Peace Mala in staff meetings whilst over there. The Zambian teachers were also able to witness our Peace Mala teachings when they came over to visit our school.

As a school, we feel that it is imperative that Peace Mala is built into everyday life. To ensure that our children are regularly reminded of its importance, there is a rainbow flag displayed in each phase which is signed by every child and teacher. Upon signing the flag the children and teachers pledged a vow to follow the teachings of Peace Mala every day. These flags act as a clear, visual reminder to everyone at Baguley Hall to respect one another and lead peaceful lives. We also have our Baguley Peace Prayer that is visible in every classroom and read regularly by the children in class and in phase assembly to remind everyone of the Peace Mala message.
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/SEALS lessons the children explore prejudice. The children 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 Peace Mala. The lesson that we teach the children is that it is very important to respect themselves, others and personal belongings which is emphasised through each Class Charter. 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 adults have to

Each year we hold a whole-school Peace Mala day which includes a full day of activities and events dedicated to Peace Mala. We have had a variety of visitors to the school; including Christian, Buddhist and Islamic faith leaders who each gave an engaging presentation to the whole school about what peace means to their faith. Throughout the day children, staff and parents are involved in workshops and activities around the school; it is always fantastic to see families, of all faiths, working together to celebrate peace. Parents are delighted to be involved in the event and are always keen to know the dates for future events!
It was an honour to have Glenda Thornton (from May Peace Prevail on Earth) with us at a previous ceremony. Glenda supported us in planting our peace pole after one child from each class had come forward and placed their classes decorated peace doves in the hole. The pole was then secured on top of the messages before it was cemented in place.

Throughout our events our music co-ordinator leads us all in singing a selection of beautiful songs, all of which were based around the theme of peace. The final song of our events is always ‘A little peace’ by Nicole. The children have learnt the sign language to this song so as they sing around the peace pole they are also spreading the message of peace visually. Towards the end of the song we encourage a selection of parents came forward to gather around the peace pole with their children to release helium balloons, in the colours of Peace Mala, into the sky. The balloons have messages of peace attached to the bottom of each of them, which had been written by children across the school.

Every Christmas we give each child a Christingle to decorate and hold a whole-school assembly to celebrate the event. Beforehand, the children are shown a PowerPoint which describes the meaning behind the Christingle and how this links with Peace Mala. The children walk to the local church for a special Christmas ceremony. At one point during the service the Peace Pals take their place at the front of the stage with their Christingles. The children then snap their glow sticks simultaneously to light up the church- the effect is magical!
Each harvest time and Christmas time we also create packages to take around to the local care homes which are delivered by Peace Pals and the Head girl and boy. This has proven to be a great way of spreading the messages of Peace mala into the community and providing opportunities for individuals of all ages to interact and show love and peace to one another.

Upon embarking on our journey to becoming a Peace Mala school we have focussed on the importance of sharing ideas and building relationships between schools locally and globally. Since becoming an established Peace Mala school, our focus has now changed to how we can move Peace Mala forward within our schools and alter our action plans accordingly. I meet regularly with the Peace Mala co-ordinators from schools in Wythenshawe such as Newall Green and Benchill. We always ensure that we attend events that are held by the other schools. I have been fortunate enough to attend Newall Green and Benchill for their Peace Mala events. In previous years we have created and exchanged gifts of peace with our friends in other schools. We thoroughly enjoyed taking our Peace Pals back to Benchill to teach their school the sign language to our peace song ‘A Little Peace’. This year we have very much enjoyed working closely together to practise singing for the peace conference. To ensure that we made the most of ‘out time’ together, the staff arranged for children from both schools to work alongside one another to create peace biscuits which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Over the years we have fostered links with other schools, including King David Primary School, a Jewish school in North Manchester.
The previous Peace Mala lead (Amy Grundy) met Mrs Stacey Rosenberg (The head teacher) several years ago and after discussing Peace Mala with her at length, she was very keen to participate in any way that she could. A few weeks later she brought 15 of her year 6 children to our school where they held a whole school assembly and informed us about Rosh Hashanah. They had even learnt a rap to teach our children about their traditions- the children were mesmerised! We are now able to use this rap as part of our Rosh Hashanah celebrations each year.

Last Christmas we were also thrilled to be able to invite a parent in to help with the carol service and celebrations as she is a vicar from one of the local churches. Parents and church goers were also invited to the celebrations.

**Area 3**

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

Baguley Hall pupils and staff at the Peace Mala event in Llandaff Cathedral Wales

Baguley Hall is a community of around 550 children and adults. We ask the children to be mindful of the prejudice that surrounds certain faiths and culture in the world and
we need to work to stop this. As the Peace Mala warns ‘the voices of intolerance are all around us. The voice of tolerance needs to be louder.’

Every year we have a Disability awareness week which allows the children to see some of the disadvantages of disability as well as the power of self-belief and determination to succeed against all odds. We were fortunate enough to have been joined by different people, all of whom had disabilities of some kind. One gentleman described the drawbacks of being wheelchair bound during a whole school assembly. He then led workshops to children in every year group which included giving the children the opportunity to sit in his wheelchair. I felt immensely proud of the attitude of our children who all greeted our guests with warmth and acceptance. A few weeks after our visitors had been in school, Mr Rogers asked his reception class if they remembered our visitors, one little boy replied “do you mean the man in the red jumper?” It was a beautiful moment as it highlighted the level of acceptance that our children have, they didn’t see him as a man in a wheelchair, just an ordinary man in a red jumper.

One of our Teachers is very closely involved with a charity that supports Guide dogs. We were delighted when he agreed to bring one of the dogs in along with her trainer. They held assemblies and workshops for each year group and the children were fascinated to hear about the importance of guide dogs and the huge impact that they can have on a blind person’s life. The following day, our children enthusiastically wrote a recount of the previous day’s activities which highlighted the amount they had learnt. In the future we would like to sponsor a similar charity e.g. ‘Four Paws’ or ‘Adopt a Donkey’ as we feel that it is so important to encourage our children to show compassion towards animals.

As with most schools we have an anti-bullying policy and anti-bullying is taught in each year group through the use of the SEAL scheme of work. This is supported by our Peace Pals who offer friendship and support in the playground and are available for any children to engage with at playtime and lunchtime. Peace Mala activities are also completed during anti-bullying week each year.
Many years ago, during one of our regular Peace Pal meetings, one child suggested that each classroom creates a box to celebrate kind acts. We discussed this idea further and decided that it would be a fantastic way of celebrating and encouraging kindness and peace. Each class created their own ‘Random Acts of Kindness’ box which were used to highlight and celebrate the kindness that we encourage our children to show to each other. Every Friday, the messages were shared with the class and one name was chosen out of the box at random to receive a prize and the honour of being the Peace Mala Person of the Week! More recently, during a similar meeting, another child mentioned that they would like to re-launch the boxes to ensure that the new children understood the importance of them. We agreed that this was a fantastic idea and worked together to create an assembly to
explain the meanings of the boxes and how to use them. Anti-bullying week each year is a good opportunity for teachers to focus on their random acts of kindness boxes and reiterate the importance of respect for each other.

During our latest Peace Mala day, the children in Year 1 were involved in creating a ‘friendship salad’. The ideology is that children see that it takes all kinds of fruit (people) to make a perfect fruit salad (classroom/world). They then discussed what would happen if a rotten banana was introduced to the fruit salad. This was a great way of discussing the topic of bullying with younger children and they all grasped the concept very well.

At Baguley Hall we are a Rights Respecting School and believe in the importance of children understanding their rights from a very early age. This year we have focussed on ‘Having the right to practise any religion you choose’.

Throughout the year, we have participated in many whole-school events to promote an understanding of children’s rights; these have included whole-school assemblies, peer learning workshops held by children in UKS2 and a variety of activities based around wants and needs. The UNICEF rights of the child document is a great tool for promoting the values of Peace Mala as it focusses on the rights of every child around the world, regardless of their religion. This document is an integral part of school life at Baguley and is referred to alongside Peace Mala to reiterate the importance of meeting children’s rights in school, in the community and worldwide. Each year various fundraising activities and events are held to raise money for UNICEF.

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, pyjama days, ‘change for change’ which raises money for countries who have suffered global disasters and Macmillan cake sales. We always ensure that children are aware of the events and feel passionately that such activities give our children a deeper understanding of how we can be compassionate and work towards making both local and global positive changes.

The children have learnt all about people and organisations that have made a difference to the world. This involved learning about numerous charities, their founders and numerous people who have helped to make the world a better place through raising money, charities, technology, science etc. We have many links with the different places of worship and faith leaders in the community and beyond.

As well as many previous years, In July 2015, Miss Grundy and Mr Rogers went to Zambia to teach for 2 weeks. They held a series of Peace Mala workshops which included Peace Mala t-shirt designing, creating a large scale rainbow made out of tissue paper, teaching the children the words and sign language to ‘A Little Peace’-our school’s Peace Mala song and creating lessons around books with Peace Mala values e.g. Elmer The Elephant. All workshops were extremely popular with the Zambian children and they were fully engaged throughout. They showed the children our Peace Mala Symbolic Dove of Peace No.2 and explained the important messages behind it. The children then created their own peace doves which we helped them to display to brighten up the bare walls of their classrooms. They found that it was a privilege and a joy to be able to spread the values of Peace Mala to such responsive children. They gave the Zambian children a T-shirt which was created by our children. The T-shirt was decorated with Peace Mala values and colours. The children in Zambia then created their own T-shirt which they brought back to England as symbol of our friendship and as a vow to keep the Peace Mala promise.

During their time in Zambia they were very fortunate to cross paths with Rachael Webb, the Head Teacher at Hafod Primary School in Swansea. They met in Livingstone and were able to discuss Peace Mala at length and plan to create a link between both primary schools. They also brought our peace doves and were able to have a photograph with peace doves 2 and 3 which was great!
As many children at Baguley Hall have different heritages and cultures we have decided to spend one day each year celebrating that. During our heritage days each child participates in learning about their own or an unknown culture, this includes their dress, food, languages etc. The children taste food from around the world and explore where countries are in relation to England. The children then take part in special assembly to share what they have learnt with the rest of the school. The assembly ends with a heritage parade where every child from each class proudly, parades around the school with a flag to show their heritage.

After the devastation that occurred in June 2015 on the beaches of Tunisia, our thoughts were instantly with the people of the country and what we could do, as a school, to show our sympathy to those who lost their lives and gratitude to those who saved lives. The children of Year 5 wrote a beautiful letter to the hotel workers who acted as a human shield to protect the innocent tourists from such terror. In the letter the children referred to the important messages that Peace Mala teaches us in these situations and expressed their gratitude and respect towards the workers. We were delighted to receive a reply from the hotel workers who were incredibly touched by our letter.

During one of our Peace Mala days, the year 5 and 6 children were given the task of researching and creating a presentation about people who have dedicated their lives to encouraging peace. The children gained such a lot from the experience, it was wonderful to hear them explaining the commitment of such inspirational people, for example; Ghandi, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther king, Malala Yousafzai, Princess Diana and Nelson Mandela.
This year, Year 6 pupils also did a literacy topic about refugees and teaching them to show empathy and understanding towards the individuals and their plights. Some lovely letters were produced as a result and the children are now very keen to work with a refugee charity as part of the Peace Pal work this year.

More recently children across the school wrote messages of peace and created posters in light of the Manchester bombings and the anniversary the following year. These messages were taken into Manchester centre and placed in St Anne’s square and surrounding areas. A main focus that was put across to the children was that it was not a religious based attack and through the footage that followed, we used the Peace Mala message to think of all the different religion’s peace messages as we saw people from all religions coming together as a community to show their unity. Children focussed on the positives that has come from the tragedy. We were able to concentrate on all the goodness and love that was created as a result of the bombing and celebrated 999 weekend as well, recognising all the hard work shown by the emergency services, which is made up of people of all religions.
It has always been a tough conversation to have with children regarding terror attacks however, Peace Mala has also helped us to discuss difficult topics and since becoming a Peace Mala school, using the messages of peace and positive language linked, classes have been able to talk about other terror attacks and memorials such as remembering 25 years since the IRA bombings and 9/11 memorials. This is something that I feel has helped our children no end as it has helped them in showing and understanding empathy and feelings and emotions which they can relate to and reflect upon.
Peace Mala encourages the celebration of cultural, racial and religious diversity through art, music, drama and dance.

We were delighted to be able to take part in a number of joint projects with schools in Zambia including hosting the Zambian Teachers when they come over here to stay. We enjoy collecting cultural information about Zambia, learning to communicate in a foreign language and becoming more tolerant and informed about different cultures.

Our aim is to teach the children about the different schools in Zambia and, in particular, the difficulties that the families face. The children are given ownership of their learning as we ask them which aspects of African culture they are keen to know more about. Their interests range from the education that children are given, to the traditions and cultures of the children when they are at home. The children love hearing about the staff’s experiences in Zambia and are always enthusiastic to interview the Zambian Teachers when they come to our school. Teachers and children alike have learnt a great deal about Zambia and we all feel that we are growing into global citizens through these experiences.

We are very fortunate to have very talented musicians who come into our school each week to teach children how to play steels pans and practise traditional African drumming. The weekly workshops allow the children to take part in the use of the instruments in a fun and energetic way.

The children’s learning throughout the year culminates in a special, group performance to showcase their skills. This year, the children were so impressive
that they were spotted and asked to enter a competition at the Royal Northern College of Music where they received the grade ‘outstanding’ for their achievements. The whole experience taught children to appreciate different styles of traditional drumming and gave the children an enormous sense of achievement.

Every year we celebrate ‘Modern Foreign Languages Day’ which is a whole-school, full-day event that acknowledges and celebrates how fortunate we are to have friends at our school of different faiths and cultures. The day begins with a whole school assembly where every child from the school parades through the centre of the hall carrying a flag to celebrate their families’ heritage or their nationality. Children of different cultures are invited to sit on the stage at the front of the hall and wave their flags proudly, for all to see, whilst singing a variety of songs in different languages. Parents and family member are welcome at the event and take a real pride in witnessing the celebration of their nationality. Throughout the day children are given passports and they ‘travel’ around the school visiting different countries (classrooms) where they learn about the traditions and religions of each country. Children are given the opportunity to taste a range of food, perform dances, learn about the main religions of the country and learn new languages.

As a school, we feel that it is important to celebrate every festival throughout the year. In order to do this we hold a whole-school morning assemblies to explain which festival is taking place as well as how and why people celebrate. The children generally lead each assembly with the support of myself and between us we are able to impart our knowledge on to the rest of the school. Often we organise for special guests to come into school and speak during assembly. At Christmas we were fortunate enough to have our local Priest and a parent in to discuss what Christmas means to them. Last year we hired a fantastic Bollywood dancer to teach the children a celebratory dance. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and some of the Year 4s shared their knowledge and skills in a whole-school Diwali assembly.

This year we have created Rangoli patterns to celebrate Diwali and displayed them outside classrooms to welcome visitors into the school. Also, one of our classes led an assembly to celebrate Chinese New Year. I also organised for Manchester airport to come in to teach the children more about the festival and did workshops with each year group where the children got to try some traditional food and learn more about the culture.
At Baguley Hall, the 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.

Healthy eating and environmental sustainability plays a large part in our school life which was recognised when we gained our ‘Healthy School’ status. Our achievements in this area have since been acknowledged by the well-known children’s TV programme ‘Blue Peter’. We were asked if we would allow a camera crew to come into school and film the children in our edible playground- we even gave Barney his very own Peace Mala bracelet!

All staff and children were very excited and had a fantastic day discussing our developments including a peace tree that the Peace Pals filled with peace messages attached to the branches, created by all children in the school. The children have lessons on Healthy Eating during PSHCE and through various science topics across the school. They learn all about food groups, the benefits of each group and how to produce a healthy plate of food. All lunchtime meals are freshly prepared by our dedicated school cooks who take a real pride in ensuring that the children are offered a selection of healthy options. Food harvested from the edible playground is also put into the food served by the kitchen which is something I know the children get really excited by as it creates a real sense of pride eating something they put love and energy into growing themselves.

The kitchen staff are always very keen to participate in our Health and Fitness week which consists of five days of varied activities and events to promote health and fitness. Each year, the kitchen staff talk to the children about the importance of healthy eating whilst the children made their own fruit kebabs. Other events that take place throughout the week includes class competitions, the opportunity to design a balanced meal, science experiments to show the process of bread becoming mouldy and lessons to create tally charts and bar graphs to show the results of sporting events that each class participate in. The week culminates in our whole-school sports day which families and friends are encouraged to be part of. Sports day is a fantastic opportunity for children to practise Peace Mala values such as respect, friendship and team work.
We are fortunate enough to have amazing outdoor areas at our school that we fully engage with during our lessons and the children are always reminded to take care of the environment and respectful of the animals and living things around us. Nursery even made bird feeders to feed the birds during the cold winter months which we hung in the trees of our edible playground.

EYFS have created their own nature environment which consists of a planting area with strawberry plants and a raspberry bush, bird and bee boxes and a quiet area that is covered in bark which is used often when reading the children stories or simply, for quiet reflection. Many lessons involving teaching children how to be kind to nature
and how to look after our environment have been planned around this area. We have recently started an Edible Playground Project which has been jointly funded with the postcode lottery. The children and staff will be creating a purpose built allotment, greenhouse and wormery in one of our outdoor areas. The children will be involved in sowing, growing, harvesting and eating/selling the produce. The fruit and vegetables that the children have grown will be served to them at lunchtime.

To ensure that due care and respect is shown to our environment and wildlife, we have got a team of dedicated eco-councillors who meet regularly with their leader Ms Edge to discuss relevant issues and plan future projects. Over the past year the children have been responsible for ensuring that we save energy by encouraging Teachers and children to turn off lights and IWBs when they are not needed. Our eco-councillors also remind Teachers to switch off electricity at the mains to conserve electricity. They have been responsible for planting bulbs around the school and growing potatoes which the children were able to cook and eat. To ensure that our environment is safe and free from any litter, the Eco-council team and Ms Edge conduct regular litter picking exercises and promote the use of bins to all children across the school. We have also recently made the decision to not use plastic wallets and instead use hole punches in an attempt to cut down our plastic usage after learning more about how this affects wildlife in the oceans and seas. Year 1 did an assembly raising awareness of this issue using the language of the golden rule and Year 6 then wrote letters to local supermarkets encouraging the use of less plastic to save the beautiful creatures in our oceans. We even sent copies of our letters to David Attenborough with a Peace Mala bracelet for him to hopefully wear!

We also have a gardening club which is led by myself and other passionate and dedicated members of staff in our edible playground and other areas of the school. Over the last year, the children have grown strawberries, mint, potatoes, sweet peas and rhubarb. The children were then given the opportunity to use their freshly grown produce to create meals during our weekly cooking club.
Area 7

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

Hall Peace Pals hang messages of Peace

These were created by pupils and tied onto the school Peace Tree.

At the front of our assembly hall we have two, large Peace Mala doves which children love as they are extremely striking. They are used as a visual reminder for the children; showing them the expectations that we have in school. We have peaceful rooms that are available to all children as a place to go to relax and calm thoughts. Calm Spaces and The Rainbow Room children with specific learning needs to have
some quieter, individual time or to participate in small group work with other children of similar abilities or learning needs. These rooms are particularly positive for the children with social and emotional needs as they provide a safe haven for play therapy. The Peace Mala values are referred to and constantly used as a way of teaching the children the importance of valuing and respecting themselves, others and the school environment. We also have a beautiful prayer room which allows children the opportunity to pray throughout the school day.

Baguley Hall Peace Mala doves

At the beginning of each year, children in every class are nominated by their peers to become a Peace Pal. The children view this role as a real honour and wear their Peace Pal caps, and newly introduced Peace Pal badges, around school with great pride. Children are introduced to the role by the previous Peace Pals who hand over their caps and badges during a meeting whereby the role of a Peace Pal is explained by their predecessor. Their key role in school is to spread the message of peace to others through offering help and support to other children if they should need it. Many Peace Pals have resolved minor conflicts during break time and lunch time through simply reiterating the golden message of ‘treating others as you would wish to be treated’.
Throughout the year I meet regularly with the Peace pals and we discuss what we can do to spread the message of peace further. Earlier in the year each Peace Pal planted tulips, in the colours of Peace Mala, around the base of the Peace Pole. The children were delighted to see their hard work come to fruition in the spring when the bulbs began to grow and flower.

We worked with children across the school to create a Message of Peace; this is similar to a Peace Prayer but instead of focussing on one religion, it encompasses all the beliefs and values that Peace Mala encourages. One of the Year 6 children shared our Message of Peace with the whole-school during our Peace Mala day. To ensure that the values of Peace Mala are always at the forefront of people’s minds, this message is now read by all of the children and staff at the beginning of our weekly celebration assemblies.

In KS2 we also have reflection and meditation time each week after lunchtime break to refocus the children’s minds and teach them to regulate their behaviours and focus the mind. Last year was also the first year of mindfulness club, yoga and mindfulness colouring club which were all a great success. These were great
opportunities to promote time for reflection for any children and adults of any religion to share time together creating a peaceful space to share and enjoy.

Lastly, along with Mrs Bulman, I took a group of Peace Pals to the Youth speaking competition. After practise and preparation, our peace pals took part in this formal speaking competition in which the children discussed what Peace Mala is, what it means for our school and why it is so important to them. Although they did not win the competition, they were highly commended by judges for their passion shown for Peace Mala, something we are very proud of them for and meant a million times more than a trophy.

“Since October 2014, our school has altered our RE syllabus to incorporate the teachings of Peace Mala. The impact that this has had on our children has been overwhelming. Through the vital messages that Peace Mala promotes, our children have really connected with the main faiths and religions in a positive and inclusive way.

Peace Mala has given our children a much deeper understanding and fostered a real interest and respect in people who have different beliefs to those of our children.

In our multicultural and diverse society, Peace Mala is such an incredibly powerful organisation which plays a vital role to the development of our children.”

Olivia Dias-Grundy (was Robinson)
Year 6 Teacher and Peace Mala co-ordinator
Baguley Hall Primary School,
Wythenshawe, Manchester.