KNOW YOUR SIKH STUDENT

Strategies to get to know and support your Sikh students:

1 Learn the correct pronunciation of your Sikh students' names.

2 Know the common misconceptions about your Sikh students' identity and traditions.

3 Teach respect by openly voicing zero-tolerance for identity-related bullying.

4 Be familiar with the language/terminology associated with your Sikh students' identity.

5 Know how to tie a Sikh student's 'Patka' (often needed in elementary school).

6 Build an inclusive classroom library with books that represent Sikh students.

7 Plan a visit with your students to a Gurdwara (Sikh house of worship) near you.

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WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR SIKH STUDENTS

PREVENT BULLYING

Over 50% of Sikh students report experiencing bullying or harassment because of their Sikh identity. Teach students and staff about Sikhism to help dispel common stereotypes and misconceptions that are often at the root of bullying.

INCLUDE SIKH STORIES

The representation of minorities in the media and in classroom materials affects both how minorities are perceived and how minority students see themselves. Add books with Sikh characters to your classroom library and include examples of everyday and famous Sikhs alongside other individuals in your curriculum.

ADVOCATE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The First Amendment protects Sikh students' right to wear their articles of faith, such as the turban or kirpan, at school and during athletic activities. Make sure all students, teachers, and staff are familiar with First Amendment principles and understand their responsibility to protect the religious freedom rights for students from all faith traditions.

PROMOTE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Sikh students can feel marginalized or isolated when their religious identity is misunderstood or ignored. Educate yourself about Sikhism and integrate lessons and materials into your classroom to help all students deepen their understanding of and appreciation for the diverse identities that make up your school community.

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