

Big wraps for respect, trust

CRAIG COOK

ST IGNATIUS College students are getting their heads around turbans — the most prominent symbol of the Sikh faith — as part of a comparative religions program promoting tolerance and understanding.

St Ignatius junior college librarian Jane Moran invited the Turbans and Trust group, which demystifies Sikh practices and customs to visit year six students at the school's Norwood campus.

"It's all very colourful on a grey day and the kids loved it

because the turban tying is so hands on," Ms Moran said.

"The kids got to understand about Sikhism and that the messages are really all the same about respecting other people and working together."

Freelance writer and poet and 2016 SA Young Australian of the Year finalist, June Manal Younus, also visited the school to talk about her experience as a young Muslim woman and artist in Australia.

Launched as a national program four years ago, Turbans and Trust was formed to counter a negative backlash against Sikhs. Led in Adelaide by Pam

and Sukhwinder Singh the group of volunteers began visiting schools and workplaces last year. Pam, a scientist who works at the RAH, says she never encountered negativity about her turban wearing but she is aware that is not true for others.

"There are loads of taxi drivers in Adelaide who can tell you that's not their experience," the mother of two said.

Turbans are one of five articles of faith of the Sikh religion and a symbol of trust that means the wearer is someone who can be approached to give help.



COLOUR: Rosie, Max and Annabelle with Pam and Sukhwinder Singh. Picture: DEAN MARTIN

