

1st November 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As I mentioned to you in a previous letter, as part of our ongoing work with the local policing team, Anna McLauchlan CACH (Communities Against Crimes of Hate) Coordinator will be visiting pupils in Y7 on Tuesday 8th November to carry out a workshop with them during their lessons. I believe that it is very important for pupils to understand the consequences of bullying and being unkind to those that are different to us, and have help in dealing with these issues themselves.

As you can imagine this could be quite a sensitive area and therefore I would like to give you the opportunity of understanding the content before it is delivered to the children. To do this, we are holding a parent workshop on **Monday 7th November at 5pm**, when we can discuss any queries you have. I would request that you **DO NOT** bring your child with you to the session.

Outlined below is the information we have received from Anna as to what the session will involve.

"After initial introductions I ask for volunteers to introduce me to their friends and tell me why they like them. Usually I get things like because she is kind, because he makes me laugh, we're both really good at sport etc so very much things about who they are as a person NOT what they look like.

We then carry out the Sophie Lancaster Workshop. More info can be found here:
http://www.sophielancasterfoundation.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=73&Itemid=16

*Then we move on to bullying, a concept I am sure they are all familiar with and know how to respond to in school. Often we will discuss online bullying in this section and how to deal with that too. We then discuss that difference can sometimes be a motivation for bullying, discuss the differences within class, and whether they are aware of any problems between different 'types' of people in the wider world.
Then we look at the great things about being different.*

After this we look at what is the same and talk about feelings and how it can hurt to be bullied. There is a YouTube video in this slide which can be found at this address
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnDgZuGlhHs>

I will then tell them about another case involving Dominic Crouch who was bullied for being gay. His friends thought it was just a bit of fun but it hurt Dom so much he took his own life at the age of 15. This was added in after getting feedback from teachers in other schools that there is a lot of bullying that was defended by being 'banter' and that children needed their attention bringing to this.

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I also hope to be able to bring Andy with me on the day, a gentleman who lives in Cannock and who has a facial disfigurement as a result of having Bells Palsy at the age of 4. He is very open to being asked questions and sharing his experiences, which always goes down really well as it brings the things we were discussing to life."

Please let us know whether you will be attending the Hate Crime Parent Workshop on Monday 7th November at 5pm by replying to this short survey.

<https://forms.office.com/r/fbgxEPHSCf>

I hope you have found the above information useful but if you have any questions please contact me via st@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk .

Many thanks for your continued support.

S. Deas

Mrs S Deas
Assistant Head
Teacher of PHSCE
Safeguarding lead