

25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As part of our ongoing work with the local policing team, I am writing to inform you that Anna McLauchlan CACH (Communities Against Crimes of Hate) Coordinator will be visiting pupils in Y7 on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October** to carry out a workshop with them.

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 but as you can imagine this could be quite a sensitive area. There is an on line parent workshop on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October** at 5pm to give you an idea of the content before it is delivered to the children. I will welcome your thoughts/questions during this session, and would request that you **DO NOT** bring your child with you to the session. If you wish to attend the online workshop, please contact me at [st@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:st@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk) and I will send you the zoom link out for 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](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=PnDgZuG1hHs>

*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.*

*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."*

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Headteacher: Mr P J Bowers MAEd

I believe that it is important that pupils consider the issues raised in the workshop. However, if after reading the above information you feel that you would rather your child not take part in the session, then please complete and return the slip below to school before **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

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](mailto:st@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk) .

Many thanks for your continued support.

*S. Deas*

Mrs S Deas  
Assistant Head  
Teacher of PHSCE  
Safeguarding lead

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Name of child \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

After reading the information provided by school I am confirming that **I do not want** my child to take part in the session delivered by Anna McLauchlan CACH (Communities Against Crimes of Hate) Coordinator on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> **October**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_