



Erdington Hall Primary School
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

31st October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Erdington Hall Relationships and Health Education Curriculum Update

As a part of your child's educational experience at Erdington Hall Primary School, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive programme of Personal, Social, Health Education and Relationships education that gives children and young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

When we were in the process of developing our curriculum parents, who formed the working party, requested that we share any sensitive content before it is taught to the children, and this is the reason for this letter.

The next unit (Celebrating Differences) for Year 3 deals with respect for similarity and difference as well as anti-bullying and being unique. In this unit we will be understanding that everybody's family is different and important to them. This includes how families can be made up such as:

- Mum, dad and child
- Mixed race family
- Single parent family
- Extended family (Dad, daughter, and grandparent)
- Same sex couple
- Older couple
- Single person
- One person and a pet

In addition, we will look at how bullying affects people and how to respond to bullying. The focus is a bullying story about calling somebody 'gay'.

Here is part of the story:

It was a bright sunny morning in the playground and all the children were running, laughing, and playing games before the start of school. On the way into the classroom Simone brushed past Mark and said, 'You're gay and your trainers are gay too'. Nobody else seemed to notice. Simone had never been mean to Mark before, so although it was hurtful, he tried to ignore what she had said.

Children often use the word 'gay' as a derogatory term, sometimes without understanding what it means. Often children think it means 'stupid'. The most important thing is to emphasise that no words should be used to hurt people. Using the word 'gay' in a derogatory way is seen as homophobic and as such is completely unacceptable.

As teachers, we are as vigilant about this as if racist language is used. However, it is necessary to give an explanation what the word actually means. This will be done sensitively and appropriately with regard to children's age and maturity level. It will be explained to children that being gay means being attracted to/loving someone of the same sex in a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship.

The lessons will be delivered next week. If there are any questions about the content of the sessions, please contact myself via the school office.

Thank you

Mr Coney
PSHE/RHE Lead

Strength through Diversity | Ambition through Challenge | Success through Endeavour

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