



ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

20th November 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you to ask for your support.

As England embark on their World Cup journey, naturally many children will be supporting England and cheering them on. St Mary's will very much be a part of this and we are proud to support our country. Over the last few years footballers have done a great deal for our country: the lionesses, inspiring many young girls to challenge stereotypes and to never give up; Marcus Rashford and the free school meals campaign and the continued effort to show racism the red card.

However, unfortunately, there can be an ugly side to football, a side which although we may not want our children to see, they inevitably might. The racist language, tweets and facebook comments; fans fighting; intimidating behaviour and law breaking. Sometimes it is difficult for our children to be able to see the harm words can do. And, sometimes people believe that it is just banter!

The impact of "banter" or the deliberate use of discriminatory language/behaviour on our pupils and society can be catastrophic and have lifelong effects. These include:

- Self-harm - Absence from school
- Poor self-esteem - Retaliation
- Reduced/no qualifications - Criminal records
- Reduced employment opportunities - Depression/anxiety
- Feeling alone & isolated - Depression

School, like you, do not want this for any of our children. School should and needs to be a safe place for all, irrespective of differences. Therefore, I turn to you to ask for your support.

In school we will:

- Openly challenge any form of stereotype/prejudice/discrimination – we will not shy away from an issue.
- Educate that all forms of prejudice & discrimination are wrong.
- We will continue to educate on anti-bullying and promote "We are all different but equal"
- Remove break/lunchtime from those who are using discriminatory language.
- Remove from class (for a period time) those using discriminatory language.

- Involve parents/carers.

- Make links and consequences to real life e.g. using sexist/homophobic/racist language in the work place could result in your dismissal/criminal record.

Following on from national Anti-Bullying week starting on the 14th November 2022. We will discuss racist language and showing racism the red card in football. We will remind our children of the positive role models in society.

Please can you challenge "banter" or the use of inappropriate discriminatory language/behaviour, if your child uses it or hears it. Please promote inclusion and ask for any support from school if you may need it.

If you would like to discuss the content of this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Best wishes,
A McClurey

Mrs A. McClurey
Executive Headteacher

Fiat Mihi - Let it be with me

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