



22nd April 2020

Dear Parent / Carers

As you may already know, our school has a new group of Year 8 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Earlier, in this academic year, we applied for the position of an Anti-Bullying Ambassador; this involved writing an application form and explaining why we felt we would be a good ambassador. Along this very enjoyable journey we have been provided with training from the Diana Award - a foundation built on the belief that children can make a difference. On the training day, we learned all about how bullying affects others: did you know that **45% of young people experience bullying before the age of 18?**

We learned how there are 3 different types of bullying and more importantly, how to deal with it, support peers and prevent it from happening in the future. One of the main things we took away from the training day was the Diana Award mission: *to foster, develop and inspire positive change in the lives of young people.*

This inspired us and we created our tagline #TogetherWeCanChange and we set about an action plan made up of several campaigns. Each campaign will educate students and parents, whilst uniting us as a school.

Before starting our campaigns, we wanted to ensure our Anti-Bullying Policy was fit for purpose, so our first task was to evaluate the current policy. We decided, as a team, that the policy was too vague and didn't signpost appropriate support and guidance to parents or students.

We compiled the new policy by adding information from our training and using the Diana Award's definition of bullying which we think is simple, yet delivers clarity for everyone in 14 words: bullying is "**repeated negative behaviour that is intended to make others feel upset, uncomfortable or unsafe**".

There have been quite a lot of changes to the policy and it has now been passed through the Local Governing Body and is available for you to read on the school website:

http://www.stokesleyschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/SS-Anti-Bullying-Policy_2020-03_vALT.pdf

We have now started our first campaign: Equality through Kindness. This campaign has involved making people aware of: who we are; where they can go to get peer/teacher support; why it is important to be kind; and to welcome and accept everyone within our school community, regardless of their background. We have worked alongside a filming company and written an 'Equality Poem' that was used in the filming.

We have had to put a pause on the launch of our Kindness through Equality campaign, due to COVID-19. However, we are working together, behind the scenes, to plan and prepare for a spectacular launch once we return. We will update everyone closer to the new launch date.

In the meantime, we have all worked tremendously hard on both of these campaign ideas and are currently working towards the 'Respect' badge from the Diana Award. We hope that you are all very excited to see what the new policy looks like and how we plan to make Stokesley School an even more tolerant and inclusive environment for those within it..

Our Instagram account now has 116 followers and we are planning to use this to grab the attention of a wider audience. Please support us further by following us @stokesleyantibullying

Thank you for your time in reading our letter,

Stokesley School Anti-Bullying Ambassadors
#TogetherWeCanChange

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