



Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

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Nurtured We Flourish

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Dear Families,

It has come to our attention that there has been a spread of misinformation within our school community. Over the past few months, staff members have observed various negative messages circulating on WhatsApp groups and social media, involving members of our school community. It is concerning that such comments have been made by adults about children within our school.

Although this issue pertains to a minority, the impact of their comments necessitates addressing the entire school community to dispel any inaccuracies and clarify our stance on equality and inclusivity.

Harrietsham Church of England Primary School is an inclusive school, and ANY child will always be welcome here. We expect our school community to treat one another with kindness and respect, despite our many differences. Our values of Love, Forgiveness, and Fellowship guide our interactions and expectations for all members of our community.

Children with Additional Needs: Some families have made negative comments about the needs of certain children. Our school supports a diverse range of educational, social, and emotional needs, adhering to our vision, "**Nurtured We Flourish**" which will always be our standpoint and, as a result, we expect that all children are treated with respect and love from all members of our school community. We are dedicated to helping all children grow and flourish, both personally and academically, irrespective of their needs. Our commitment is to develop well-rounded individuals with a passion for learning, preparing them for future challenges.

Our Multicultural Community: We accept and celebrate children from all backgrounds, faiths, cultures, and religions. Our school actively promotes diversity and does not tolerate any form of racist or prejudiced behaviour.

Behaviour Policy: Our school enforces a zero-tolerance policy on intentional physical behaviour, including retaliation which is physical. Children who exhibit such behaviour are supported by senior leaders. We teach our children to love and care for each other. We do not tolerate bullying. As families will know, from our behaviour policy and agreed approach, the school do not publicly address children's mistakes; instead, we handle concerns privately with a child's family to provide the best support. Whilst this method can result in members of our community being unaware of specific consequences of behaviour, we can ensure confidentiality and effective support for the child involved.

Uniform: Whilst our children have autonomy to wear what they like into school, within class we expect all of our children to wear school uniform. Our staff address breaches of our uniform policy individually with the children in their classes. Any concerns regarding children not wearing the correct school uniform are raised with our children's parents.

Furries and Therians: As a school, we have a duty not to disclose details about individual children and their beliefs. Any support provided to a child is a private matter between the school and the family. I will not announce details about our children and their beliefs to the parent body and neither should I be expected to. Suggestions from members of our parent community of children howling or barking at teachers, or dressing up as animals in lessons, are unfounded and untrue. As noted above, all children are expected to wear school uniform in the classroom. However, we will allow age-appropriate role-play and dress-up during playtimes. Many children choose to take this opportunity to play and dress up as princesses, superheroes, animals, emergency service personnel, dinosaurs, etc. Misinterpretations of such play from our parents are unhelpful and inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

In accordance with our PSHE and broader curriculum, we will continue to educate all members of our school community on the importance of valuing and showing empathy towards everyone, irrespective of their individual characteristics.

As always, we encourage families to communicate any concerns directly with us. Our goal is to ensure all children are happy, enjoy learning, and achieve success in all areas of life. We take all concerns seriously but will not tolerate unkind or discriminatory comments about any member of our school community.

We hope this letter addresses any concerns regarding circulating misinformation. Please remember that we are discussing children who are still learning and developing. As with all our children, they deserve our support and positive role modelling in all aspects of life. We appreciate your cooperation in fostering a respectful and inclusive environment.

I trust this letter will clarify any misunderstandings. Moving forward, it is expected that any concerns be communicated directly to us, rather than disseminating inaccurate information about our children.

Kind regards,
Jackie Chambers
Headteacher

