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27th February 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

Re: No Outsiders Equality Education

As you may be aware, a meeting was held at Parkfield School on Thursday 21st February 2019, to discuss current concerns being expressed by some parents in the school community around the No Outsiders equality education in school, and in particular, what children are taught about LGBT.

The meeting was chaired by Andrew Warren, the Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands, and included representatives from parents, Excelsior Trust, and Liam Byrne MP. The discussions were a helpful first step and identified the key issues that are concerning parents, including the ethos, the books, the age appropriateness, the lessons and the assemblies. The agreed outcome of the meeting was the need to have a discussion with the school community about the No Outsiders curriculum and how it should be delivered.

We will arrange a series of meetings with the parents of each Year Group over the next half term to share and discuss the teaching of The Equality Act 2010 at Parkfield. Letters detailing the dates and times will be sent to each class individually.

Up to the end of this term, we will not be delivering any No Outsiders lessons. In our Long Term Year Curriculum Plan, as this half term has already been blocked for Religious Education (RE). Equality assemblies will continue as normal and our welcoming No Outsiders ethos will be there for all.

Many parents have approached the school in the last few weeks to express support for the No Outsiders ethos and to say they understand what No Outsiders is about and why it is important to teach children about difference in the UK. The school encourages parents to ask their children what No Outsiders is really about, as the children are very clear there is no focus on one aspect of equality, rather No Outsiders teaches that everyone is welcome.

Cont/d



Company Number: 8314293



Some positive messages from parents are:

'I wish people would listen to what No Outsiders is really about.'

'Carry on, it's really important; it's about anti-racism and stopping hate crime'.

'I totally support you and I support what you are doing and you have to carry on'.

You may also have seen that Government has laid regulations in Parliament that will make Relationships Education compulsory in primary schools from September 2020 (as well as Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools and Health Education in all schools). They have also published the latest draft of the guidance for schools on these subjects, which has been amended following consultation. The school will soon begin preparing for these new requirements and I am committed to consulting with parents throughout the process of developing our policy and curriculum on Relationships Education and Health Education. I will write to you again once we are ready to start this process.

As you know, Parkfield is an Outstanding school and strives to do its best for its pupils. We want all our pupils to achieve their potential. The whole school approach ensures your child's personal development as well as their academic development. It is also essential that pupils are prepared for life in modern Britain. The weekly protests are upsetting for all, disrupt the normal routines of the school and will have an overall effect on the educational achievement and well-being of your children. We therefore appeal to you to stop the weekly protests.

We are looking forward to meeting with you over the next half term so we can all work together and explore equality education at Parkfield.

Yours sincerely

Trustee Board
Excelsior Multi Academy Trust

