

Thursday 8th March 2018 Year 7 Educate and Celebrate

A representative of the organisation “Educate and Celebrate” will be talking to pupils in year 7 about how we can be inclusive towards those in our school who identify as LGBT+. The aim is to eradicate any form of bullying or discrimination against members of our school community on the basis of their sexuality or gender identity and to ensure that everyone is treated equally and fairly.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Mr Simson, the Deputy Head Teacher.

The mission statement of “Educate and Celebrate” is reproduced below, from their website:

www.educateandcelebrate.org

Mission Statement

‘The Educate & Celebrate initiative is innovative and visionary’ Ofsted, Jan 2016

Educate & Celebrate is an Ofsted and DFE recognised Best Practice Award Programme that gives staff, students, parents and governors the confidence and strategies to implement an LGBT+Inclusive curriculum to successfully eradicate homophobia, biphobia and transphobia from our nursery, primary and secondary schools, colleges, Universities, organisations and communities.

Focusing on 5 core areas, the best practice award programme invites teachers, students, parents and governors to participate in creating positive whole school change through training, policy, curriculum, community and environment.

Our aim is to ensure that educational establishments and organisations adhere to their statutory duty of LGBT+Inclusion in an accessible, comprehensive and creative way by treating everyone equally and fairly according to the Equality Act 2010.

Our strategies are underpinned by academic research and our own surveys, interviews, observations and evaluations 2010-2015. The NatCen Social Research report 2014 *Tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying among school-age children and young people* concurs with our strategies where a whole school integrated approach ‘was regarded as working better than only using stand alone teaching on HBT bullying specifically’ and that its reduction ‘was seen as more successful when teaching about LGBT people’ and ‘was incorporated into teaching throughout the curriculum’.

Our own surveys 2015 revealed that almost half our students across the country are not receiving any form of LGBT+Inclusive education with **53%** of schools not teaching about LGBT+ relationships and **49%** of schools not teaching the definitions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans+. In fact only **3%** of schools said they had LGBT+ activity in 2 or more subject areas, which could explain why **76%** of teachers said they’d had no LGBT+ specific training and **44%** of schools contacted us initially because staff were not confident in dealing with sexual orientation or gender identity.

Educate & Celebrate responds to these needs by engaging all stakeholders in the journey to inclusion to make our educational establishments, organisations and communities LGBT+Friendly.