

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Head of Academy: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mrs H Baker



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September 2017

Dear Parent, Carer and Student

Recent Atrocities Globally

I write with a sorrowful and heavy heart in light of the most recent tragic and despicable atrocities in America, Barcelona, Finland, Pakistan and India. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those affected in any way by these inexcusable acts of violence. Not least as a school leader, I feel a particular responsibility to address these issues on behalf of our school community and in light of QEGS vision and values I believe that it is timely to reiterate that prejudice in any form has no place in our global society. We must reject prejudice, hate and the terrorism they drive and recognise it as evil wherever it occurs. We have a duty to speak up and take responsibility whenever and wherever intolerance exists and to make it absolutely transparent where we stand in relation to essential human rights. We shall continue to live this message in our day-to-day work in school. In addition, we will be pro-active in doing all we can to ensure that our students know and understand our vision and values and act with tolerance, respect and a clear sense of morality, responsibility and of the distinction between right and wrong.

I feel sure that you will join me in pursuit of this aim in order to ensure that QEGS can be a beacon of hope in what seems to be an increasingly troubled world. As Headteacher of QEGS, I want to make it absolutely clear that we will not tolerate any form of prejudice-related behaviour in our community. This includes actions that may take place outside the school environment and/or at times when the school is not in session yet still has an impact within the school community. I have seen recently how our local community can come together during our very successful summer fair and more recently the Ashbourne Show. We have a rich and diverse community and we must continue to celebrate and respect our heritage and our differences.

If we are made aware of concerns, we will respond promptly and appropriately to any incident and we will operate our duties under the Government's Prevent Agenda assiduously should we feel that there is any indication of prejudice-related belief, action or radicalisation in our community.

We are also in the process of reviewing our current policies in these domains, however, we are already leaders in addressing this approach, offering training through the ADVTSA (Ashbourne Dove Valley Teaching School Alliance) and we have also contributed to the PREVENT debate at local, national and international stages.

I would ask that you discuss the above with your child(ren) and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in anticipation of your support for our school.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Garrity
Headteacher