



8th March 2019

Dear parents and carers,

Equality at Anderton Park Primary School

Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to the vast majority of parents who are supportive of all we do at school. It's been great to hear from you and hear your words of support. I want to dispel some inaccuracies of a confusing leaflet which has been handed out to many of you last week -

The leaflet states *"This programme promotes a whole-school gay ethos"*.

NO. This is not true. We do not have a programme and we never have.

The leaflet states *"It teaches children 'it is OK to be gay in all religions...you can be gay and Muslim'"*.

NO. This is not true.

The leaflet states *"It teaches boys it is OK to marry your best friend 'Abdul'"*.

NO. This is not true.

The leaflet states *"It discriminates against beliefs of parents and children"*.

NO. This is not true.

- It has been said that *"Mrs Hewitt-Clarkson won't meet the parents"*. This is NOT true. Senior Leaders and I have met over 35 parents over the last fortnight on these issues and will meet any parent who wishes to talk. As I said on the newsletter, there will be no large meeting. Please do phone the office and book an appointment if you wish. Dr Bashir and Mr Mahmood (two of our governors) are also meeting two parents next week.
- We do not teach children to be gay.
- We do not teach children about intercourse or intimate relationships.
- We do not tell anyone to change their religious beliefs.
- We say to children *"some religions or parents don't think its ok for two women to marry. We respect that. In the UK it is ok for two women to marry"*.
- We promote understanding of equality.
- Schools, by law (section 149, Equality Act), promote understanding of, respect and tolerance to people whose beliefs might be different to yours.
- Nothing has changed in regards to any of these issues. Our SRE Policy (called FRE) was written over 6 years ago and is available on our website.

The Equality Act has been a law since 2010. Teachers' Standards and British Values have been law since 2012. Nothing has been added or introduced. If you are unhappy with the law, speak to your MP.

One parent tried to give letters out today to an English class of mums, but didn't herself know what the content of the letters were. Other parents have had fingers wagged in their faces, been harassed or intimidated into signing or giving their numbers. This is very poor behaviour. Use of school premises to spread this intolerance is unacceptable and doing so will face a ban on school premises.

Once again, thank you to all the parents who have been so clear about British education, equality, humanity and fairness.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hewitt-Clarkson
Headteacher

