



The Poppy Academy Trust

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Head of School: Mrs D. Leggett

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Thursday 14th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Poppy Academy Trust Diversity and Inclusion Network

I hope you are well and that your children are settled into school happily. At both schools we have valued being together as a school community this term more than ever, having missed it over the past 18 months. We are always trying to make our schools better by providing opportunities for our children to be at the forefront of educational developments and actively participate in their learning and development.

I have been speaking to current and former pupils and parents of both schools about inclusion and diversity. These meetings have led to discussions and the creation of our new Diversity and Inclusion Network. We would like to invite parents and carers to join us in meeting together remotely once every half term in the evening.

In the first meeting we will set objectives about what we would like to achieve as a network across both the schools: How can we enhance the provision of diverse and inclusive teaching? How can we make sure that all families and staff feel included? And, our big, key question is... 'How do enable our children to be up-standers, not bystanders?'

Christine Dadd-Bytyci, mother of Nicholi (Y6) and Alexander (Y9), and I have been working together to bring this network to life. This is what she has to say:

"I am the mom of mixed-race boys, Albanian and Jamaican. I am pleased to see events like Black History Month celebrated at both schools. The conversations happening around race are necessary and important but even more so is giving voice to the underrepresented, the marginalised. What I know is life changing, is giving children the power to be themselves whatever their race, sexual orientation or religion. Once we empower them to be their full selves, they will soar!! I am hoping we will give everyone a seat at the table and if our table is too small, we will build our own unique table."

If you think this is something you would like to be involved in, please complete the google form: <https://forms.gle/vE74b8tH3LV3ffHz9>. The first meeting will be on Wednesday 10th November at 7:30pm.

If you have a child in Year 6 and they would like to be part of the network, please could you add that on to the form too. It would be great to have pupil voice too.

Yours faithfully,

Alice Aharon
Executive Headteacher