



5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Families

We are writing to you because we think that it is important as a school to share our thoughts about the recent death of George Floyd in America. On May 25th, George Floyd was arrested by police outside a shop in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for allegedly buying cigarettes with a false \$20 note. The incident was captured on the mobile phone of a bystander. George Floyd, who was black, died as a result of the violent behaviour of the police officer who arrested him. This footage has been shared widely on social media.

George Floyd was somebody's son and a father. George Floyd's life mattered and all lives should matter equally.

There has been an outpouring of upset, hurt and distress in many communities across the world. There have been demonstrations, calling for justice and an end to racism and discrimination. We are aware as a school that our students may be feeling traumatised by these recent events. As adults too, we may well have been affected deeply.

Many of the pictures which have been beamed across the world show people of all colours coming together in solidarity with the family of George Floyd, as well as to call for equality and justice for all.

As a school, we take a strong stand against discrimination and injustice. Through our curriculum, we want our students to be thoughtful and reflective about the causes of oppression which can take many forms and have deep historical roots. We want our students to do more than just tolerate 'difference'. We want every single person in our school community to feel appreciated, valued, celebrated and fully respected. We will always respond to unkind and bullying behaviour within the school community, if it occurs, swiftly and fully, so that we all feel safe.

There are many things that we can do to effect positive change such as protest peacefully and safely, sign petitions and read widely in order to educate ourselves about important issues in the world. The 'Activism Society' in school exists for all students to have a voice in this regard.

Our children are the future. Let's support them in being the change that we all want to see and the change that needs to happen.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe

Headteacher