



Moorlands Church of England Primary Academy

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

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Dear Parents & Carers,

We are writing to you to flag up with you a worrying trend that is emerging amongst a small number of our children and how, by taking a united front, we can stop it in its tracks. We've had a small number of incidents of racist language that have come to light in the past two weeks. On each occasion, this language was used by a child in a casual manner and was not aimed at any individual. Where this has happened, we have investigated thoroughly and contacted parents individually, as per our procedures. However, we are writing to make you aware and also to ask for your support, as we feel it is part of a much wider issue that must be addressed.

At Moorlands, we have a zero tolerance approach to any form of discrimination. As you all know, we hold our core values at the heart of everything we do. Included in these values are Respect and Responsibility. We continue to work extremely hard to teach the children the importance of mutual respect and understanding for all people and all cultures and also to respect all individuals, regardless of gender or orientation. Of course, we cannot protect the children from ever hearing racist or abusive language, but we must enable them to have the skills to understand that use of discriminatory language is completely wrong and for them to be educated to not use it themselves.

We know from talking to the children at school, particularly the older ones, that many of them play games such as GTA and Call of Duty. We also know that many of these are played 'live' with friends using headsets. We know that the language featured in these games and heard in 'live' sessions can be one source of racist or discriminatory language. We also know that some music and YouTube videos can contain this language and may even make it seem normal.

If a child uses a racist or discriminatory term, we have a duty to inform parents, log it carefully and report regularly to the authorities, including DNEAT and Norfolk County Council. As we have had a number of incidents in the last two weeks, which, thankfully, is unusual for us, we feel that we must inform you and point out that we must take strong action, particularly for repeat offenders.

We know that our community of parents and carers are one of our strongest resources. We believe that together, we can tackle this in the interests of the children, society and the future and ask for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

The Staff and Governors of Moorlands