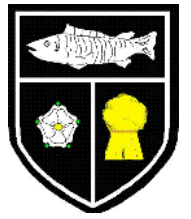


ELVINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Working Together We Can All Achieve Success'



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Headteacher: Mrs. J. Rogers

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. S. MacDonald

17th March 2014

Dear Parents

Peer Mediation programme

I am writing to let you know about a new project that we are about to introduce on trial after Easter, the project is called Peer Mediation.

As a parent of a child at school you may learn about incidents of conflict between children. It may simply be falling in and out of friendships over issues that seem unimportant to us adults, but which are very serious worries for our children. Some of these issues lead on to much more serious concerns such as bullying but a great many of them could be very effectively put right and consequently prevent serious concerns. Understandably very few children have the skills or experience to do this, and realistically there is never enough adult time to deal with every issue in the way that we would like to.

If your child has had any experiences like these and they have not been fully resolved, you may feel upset yourself, or even angry, and be unsure about how best to help your child. All of these concerns are ones which we as a school community are very concerned about and constantly take time out of curriculum teaching to try and address. With this in mind we are about to introduce Peer Mediation within our school. This is a relatively new approach in this country. A number of schools across York have developed the programme and have reported a drop in playground conflicts. Now that the programme has had chance to be trialled in York, we feel that it is the right time to implement it at Elvington.

Peer Mediation means the resolving of children's conflicts in the playground by, and for other children. To be able to do this, children from Year 5 will receive detailed training in the skills which are thought to be most important in solving conflicts in a peaceful way. Teams of these children will be available in the playground on a rota basis for any other children to approach for help in sorting out problems. A child



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will always have the choice of whether to seek adult help or go the mediators, and there are very clear guidelines for the mediators about what things are suitable for them to mediate over. In addition there will be regular daily adult support for the mediators.

If this project is successful it will go a long way towards making our children feel happier and more settled from day to day, and as a result make their potential for learning greater, and their teacher's hard work and planning more effective. If you would like to know more about this project or wish to discuss some aspect of it, please contact the school and arrange a mutually convenient time.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne MacDonald

Suzanne MacDonald
Deputy Headteacher