Central Foundation Girls' School
Transforming lives through a Central Education

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A Culture of Kindness: United against Bullying School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for being part of our school community of upstanders who put kindness, respect and integrity at the heart of all that we do. You may remember, last term, I wrote to families explaining how as a United Against Bullying School, we need your support in gathering some information about your daughters' experiences.

To make sure we are doing all we can to prevent and reduce bullying and to improve student wellbeing, we want to find out the levels of bullying in our school and to find out how our students feel about school. For this reason, we are inviting students in Years 7 -11 to complete an anonymous questionnaire in the next week. We will then ask students to complete the questionnaire again at the end of the programme.

As part of the programme, we will also be inviting parents and carers to complete a separate questionnaire to collect your views on anti-bullying at our school, but we will contact you about this separately.

Why we are writing to parents/carers

We are contacting you to ask for your consent for your child to take part in the research part of the programme by completing a questionnaire. You will only need to contact us if you **DO NOT** want your child to take part. Please email your opt-out to welcome@central.towerhamlets.sch.uk by 9am on Monday 26th January.

If you give consent for your child to participate, completing the questionnaire is still up to them and they will be able to choose not to complete it if they wish. Please be reassured that you or your child choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you or your child in any way.

If you are happy to give consent for your child to participate, you do not need to take any further action.

The next few pages tell you about the questionnaire and what it involves for you and your child, and what to do if you do not want your child to take part.

Thank you for working with us to ensure Central Foundation Girls' School is a place where everyone feels safe, respected, and able to thrive.

Yours faithfully,

Ms K Mahil
Deputy Headteacher

Why has my child been asked to take part and what will they do?

The student questionnaire has been specially designed by the Anti Bullying Alliance. Questions have been tried and tested with pupils with and without Special Educational Needs aged 8 and above. It is an online survey which should take about 15 minutes to complete. The answers your child gives to the questionnaire will not be seen by their friends, teachers or you, unless your child chooses an adult to help them complete the questionnaire.

Are there downsides to taking part?

There are no known risks or disadvantages to taking part. The questionnaire has been very carefully designed so that it will be easy for children to answer. If there are questions they don't like, they can leave these out. They will also be able to stop answering at any time if they wish. Completing the questionnaire should not cause them any distress. Information will also be provided about other sources of advice and help, e.g. talking to their family, calling ChildLine and so on.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The school's anti-bullying lead will receive an anonymised report of the survey findings for the whole school that will help them review and support student wellbeing.

Your child's responses will help shape the approaches we use as a school when trying to prevent and tackle bullying. For example, it will help us to make sure that the school's anti-bullying policy covers all the important areas that concern children in our school. By asking these questions, pupils will also know we take incidents of bullying seriously as a school and that we care about our pupils' wellbeing.

What will happen with the information that your child gives us?

We will not collect any identifiable information about your child including their name, or ask them any open ended questions. All pupil answers will be collated together and used to understand the impact of the United Against Bullying programme and help us improve it.

What we need parents/carers to do

We hope that you have found this information useful and that you will be happy for your child to be invited to take part in this survey.

If you are happy for your child to take part, then you do not need to do anything.

If you do not want your child to participate in this research, please let the school know by emailing your daughter's full name and form to welcome@central.towerhamlets.sch.uk with a message to state that your daughter is not to participate in the United Against Bullying student survey.

We hope your child will really enjoy taking part in the programme but if you are worried about anything or unhappy with the way that the programme is conducted you can contact the Anti-Bullying Alliance via email at aba@ncb.org.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.