

Cams Lane Primary School

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Inspire Believe Learn



Parents Information regarding the Sophie Lancaster Foundation Workshop

We are excited to let you know about an upcoming workshop that your child in **Year 5** will take part in at school, delivered by trained staff from the Sophie Lancaster Foundation.

Thursday 30th April am

The Sophie Lancaster Foundation is a charity established by Dr Sylvia Lancaster OBE after the tragic death of her daughter, Sophie. Sophie had her own creative sense of style and was attacked simply because of the way she looked. The charity works with schools and communities across the UK to help young people understand prejudice, respect differences and build kinder communities.

As part of a pilot project, the Foundation will deliver a one-hour workshop with children in Year 5. Trained and experienced staff members from the charity's education team will lead the session alongside and with the support of their usual class teacher.

The workshop explores how we all make judgements about other people all the time and reinforces how we all have the right to make our own choices about who we like and who we spend time with. The session goes on to examine how respecting other people's choices is as important as wanting respect for our own. We don't have to agree or think the same thing, but we should all be safe and valued in our community.

The session will also include an age-appropriate version of Sophie Lancaster's story. This will be shared carefully and sensitively, focusing on the key message that everyone deserves respect and kindness, regardless of how they look, dress or express themselves. No details about the attack will be shared; the story will focus on the fact that Sophie was targeted because she looked different and that she sadly died.

To help ensure that the session has the greatest impact, we kindly ask that parents and carers do not share Sophie's story with their children in advance of the workshop. Experiencing the story together as part of the session helps guide the discussion in a thoughtful and supportive way. However, we would warmly encourage families to talk about the themes of the workshop at home afterwards, as these conversations can help children reflect further on the importance of kindness, respect and celebrating differences.

The aim of the workshop is to help children develop understanding, empathy and respect for others – skills that are increasingly important as they grow up and navigate friendships, online spaces and the wider world.

If you have any questions about the workshop, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Statham.

You can find out more about the Sophie Lancaster Foundation on their website: www.sophielancasterfoundation.com

