

Wednesday 9th March 2022

Aston Hall Junior & Infant School / Wickersley Partnership Trust:

Response to the situation in Ukraine

Dear parent/carer,

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is distressing and concerning, and understandably children and young people may have questions or be seeking reassurance. Our schools are well placed to talk to pupils about the images they are seeing and help them navigate the concepts and issues this brings up. Our school is following DFE advice on how to talk to young people about any distressing, complex and emotive news stories. In addition, as part of our pastoral and PSHE curriculum, we will complete lessons on how to recognise mis- and disinformation and will use DFE recommended resources such as 'Be Internet Citizens', an educational programme from the Institute of Strategic Dialogue.

Where students require any additional support with dealing with anxiety at this time, they are able to access the support programme in school. Students can access this support by talking to staff members such as class teachers and support staff, as well as myself.

Our curriculum is enriched by a strong ethos based on respect for ourselves and others, equality and through opportunities to develop deep and sustained engagement and give students the capability to think deeply and critically for themselves. We are driven by our responsibility to ensure every student should be helped to develop a sense of personal and cultural identity that is confident and open to change, and that is receptive and respectful towards other identities. We believe every student should develop the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need in order to participate in the wider context of an interdependent world.

In response to national and international situations, events or disasters, such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we will respond by introducing an 'active citizens day'. This day will be in addition to our normal curriculum and in addition to our planned programme of charity support and will happen in all schools across the Trust.

During the day, students will have the opportunity to take part in activities to help them understand how they can become active citizens and respond to global situations. This will include

- how to talk about complex issues and current affairs, such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- how to talk to people with different points of view
- how to campaign for change and to fundraise for different projects and support victims of such events.

This work will contribute towards the bronze, silver and gold pledges for active citizenship for the children also.

With charity in mind, during these days we may take the opportunity to ask for donations, although we will always be mindful of financial burdens on families and other events happening within the calendar. **Regardless of events, situation or disaster, any monies raised will be donated to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.** UNICEF works to build a better world for every child, every

day, everywhere. UNICEF provides more children with clean water, life-saving food and vaccines, education and protection from violence than any other humanitarian organisation. UNICEF works with families, local communities, organisations and governments in more than 190 countries, including Ukraine, Afghanistan, Sudan and Syria and its neighbours and the UK.

As already shared on ClassDojo, we have briefly discussed the Russian invasion of Ukraine in assembly, and staff will begin to discuss this with children in class, as and when appropriate in-line with our curriculum, current affairs and discussions raised by the children.

If you have any question or queries regarding our response, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher or me directly.

Thank you for your continued support



Mr Holmes

Headteacher