

06 June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

YORK PRIDE AND RAISE YOUR RAINBOW EVENTS

Many families will be aware that the annual York Pride celebration takes place next month, with a number of city-wide events leading up to the York Pride Parade on Saturday 9 June. York Pride is a celebration of equality between lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual people. In line with their mission to promote York as a welcoming city, the City Council and the Fairness and Equalities Board are encouraging employers in York to again show their support for York Pride by taking part in a 'Raise your Rainbow' day. This will take place in School on Friday 8 June. Employers are encouraged to 'dress' their building in a rainbow (York Minster will be draped in a rainbow flag, for example) and employees are encouraged to dress in rainbow colours, or simply wear a rainbow badge.

At Millthorpe, we will again be dressing the outside and inside of the building in rainbow bunting and rainbow flags and as last year, staff and students are invited to wear a rainbow piece of clothing, accessory or sticker, if they wish to do so. Students must wear full school uniform but can wear an additional piece of rainbow clothing or a rainbow accessory on top of their uniform. In addition, they will have the opportunity to collect a rainbow sticker and/or rainbow face and hand stamp from school, to show their support for equality between lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual people in York.

Our support for the event is an endorsement of our school values, in particular:

- 'We respect all members of school and our community'
- 'We treat all people with equality and seek equal opportunities for all'
- 'We are an inclusive school and are tolerant of different views and cultures'
- 'We value difference and are open-minded about other ways of being and living'

The 'Raise your Rainbow' day and the importance of Pride Month has already been explained to students in assemblies this week.

In the week leading up to the Pride march, form tutors will show students a short video explaining York Pride. They will make it clear that whilst all students are invited to wear a rainbow accessory, there is no requirement to do so.

This year, Millthorpe will be one of a number of schools taking part in the York Pride Parade on Saturday 9 June, in support of the local LGBT community and we would warmly welcome any students and their families to join us. However, as this is not a

formal school trip, we would ask that parents ensure that their children remain safe and that Millthorpe staff will not be able to take responsibility for students at this public event. We will have our own slot in the Parade, marked out by Millthorpe banners. If you would like to join us, please meet at the side of the Minster in Dean's Garden at 11:15. The parade will start from the Minster at 11:45 and last about an hour. The route will take us through the city centre and then to the Knavesmire, via Skeldergate and Bishopthorpe Road.

The main Pride event then runs from 13:00 to about 18:30 at the Knavesmire, with stalls, live music, food, drinks and other family friendly activities.

For your reference there are some useful links below.

<http://www.millthorpeschool.co.uk/millthorpe/community/lgbt-at-millthorpe/>

<http://www.stonewall.org.uk/help-advice/glossary-terms>

<http://yorkpride.org.uk/>

Yours faithfully

S Richards

Miss R Richards