



PETERBOROUGH KEYS ACADEMIES TRUST

Peterborough Keys Academies Trust

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Dear parents and carers,

As a Trust, you will know that we educate children of many different national heritages. We are very proud to work in this diverse community and the vibrancy that it brings is regularly celebrated within our schools.

However, this also means there is almost always a time when international conflict touches some children and families within our community. At this time, we know that the current dreadful events in Israel and Gaza (as well as many ongoing conflicts around the world) will mean that many of our families will be deeply affected by what they see and hear.

As educators, and those with a duty of care to your children, we always think very carefully about how best to support in these circumstances. As schools we are required to be apolitical but we also recognise the feelings of sadness and distress that many of our pupils are experiencing. Some are very anxious about the future and we need to be able to offer a calm and reassuring environment for them. In this context, we would be grateful for your support in discouraging pupils and students from bringing (including on hands) national flags, emblems or artefacts into the school environment.

I wanted to write to you now as it is important that we also reassure families about our approach. The leadership teams in our schools are always thinking very carefully about the balance that we need to create. Many conflicts have complex historical and political contexts and we must be careful that, in aiming to support our learners, we do not inadvertently cause offence. Therefore, our approach will always be centred on recognising the unfolding tragedy, valuing our common humanity and pursuing a desire to bring people together.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to all those in our community who have been affected by current or previous conflicts.

Yours faithfully,

Dr I Young
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Peterborough Keys Academies Trust

UNLOCKING  POTENTIAL