

 **Toot Hill School**  
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Wednesday, 06 July 2022

## Pride Celebrations at Toot Hill School

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has come to my attention that members of our local community are discussing a change made by the school to our recent Pride celebrations.

We did initially invite two drag queens into our school as part of our Pride celebrations. Unfortunately, the decision was taken to cancel this visit due to adult content published on their social media accounts, which is not suitable for children.

This content was brought to my attention after we had invited the drag queens into school. I would like to stress that this decision would have been the same for guest speakers to the school of any sexual orientation. We would invite drag queens into school again if they meet all our expectations with regards to school guest speakers.

We celebrate diversity and educate all our students about the protected characteristics. We have a large diversity group at Toot Hill School that consists of students from all year groups, including the college. They played a large part in planning our Pride celebrations, culminating in a large student march on Pride day and they were extremely happy with the huge involvement from both students and staff.

We teach our students about the protected characteristics throughout our curriculum so all students can see themselves in the curriculum and experience a positive narrative. We do not use the word 'tolerate' at Toot Hill School when it comes to learning about culture, ethnicity and sexuality as we strongly feel every protected characteristic should be celebrated by all.

Indeed, we hope soon to be accredited with the Rainbow Flag Award to mark our commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion, as we believe this improves the lives of all young people.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr C Eardley**  
Head Teacher