

Dear Parents and Carers of children in X Class,

We are writing to you today, with the permission of the parents involved, to inform you that we have a student in X Class that has Tourette Syndrome (TS). This is a neurological disorder that affects up to 1 in 100 people. TS is characterised by tics, which are involuntary, rapid, sudden movements and/or vocalisations that occur repeatedly. The tics are cyclical in nature and change frequently. They can vary in type and intensity and often disappear for weeks or months at a time, often reappearing sporadically.

Tics are completely involuntary and not in any way intentional. Tics can be very hard for a person to control and can at times cause unintentional disruption to people around them. There is no intention to harm or upset anyone. This can also be very embarrassing and upsetting for the child with TS as TS is a very misunderstood condition which needs further awareness and understanding which we intend to provide.

At present the child in question is showing symptoms of vocal tics; vocal tics are sounds uttered unintentionally. In this child's case, the tics are currently presenting as swear words. The term for this type of tic is Coprolalia.

We are an inclusive school and every child on our school roll is a valued member of our community. We are supporting this child as we would do for any of our children and families in school with additional needs. We are supporting this child to manage strategies and deal with this condition with sensitivity and acceptance. They have every right to be in school. We will not tolerate bullying, intolerance or isolation in any shape or form. We have an amazing supportive and accepting school community and are sure that everyone in school will deal with this with respect, responsibility and equality for this child and their family.

Your children will have the opportunity to learn about Tourette Syndrome just as we learn about all conditions in school that make us all different. In this school we celebrate people's differences and the fact that everyone is unique. You may also wish to support us and have a discussion at home with your children about TS and let us know if there are any questions or concerns.

For further information, please visit the national charity Tourettes Action, who have been supporting our school. There are many resources on their website that will help explain this condition www.tourettes-action.org.uk.

Thank you as always for your support, compassion and understanding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns.

Yours Faithfully

Head Teacher