

Dear Parents and Carers

St Chad's is delighted to be running a programme challenging gender stereotypes this year, called Lifting Limits. Lifting Limits will support our staff and pupils to recognise and to challenge the many gender stereotypes that surround children as they grow up. For example, the ways in which toys and clothes give children messages about the different sorts of jobs they might want to do when they grow up, or that give messages that boys should be tough or that girls aren't good at maths.



Although they might seem harmless, we know that gender stereotypes influence many future outcomes for children such as their mental health, their aspirations and their academic future. For example, gender stereotypes are a factor in the low numbers of girls choosing Physics and Computer Science or low numbers of boys choosing English and Art and Design at A Level.

Lifting Limits started with a thought-provoking Inset session for staff which has challenged us to look at our own practice and at our curriculum – for example, at the number of female scientists or composers we teach. We will be using lesson plans, assemblies and activities they provide throughout the year to raise awareness of these issues amongst the children, to develop their critical thinking and to promote gender equality in all aspects of their learning. We hope the children will talk to you about what they are learning and we will also be running a workshop for parents and carers later this year.

The programme was tested for a year in an externally evaluated pilot in five schools in Camden before being rolled out more widely. If you are interested in finding out more about Lifting Limits or their work please see their website www.liftinglimits.org.uk. Resources for families to use at home are available to download from the website here <https://www.liftinglimits.org.uk/families/>.

Staff and I are very excited to be taking part in this project and believe it will positively develop the ethos and learning in the school.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Flavin
Diversity & Inclusion