

STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY: *LIVE OUR BEST LIFE*

STAFF BRIEFING

SCRIPT

Please be advised that the content of the accompanying assembly materials make reference to Stephen's death in age appropriate ways. Headteachers may decide to share the content with parents and carers in advance of the assembly in line with their usual practice.



**STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY: LIVE OUR BEST LIFE
STAFF BRIEFING**

AIM

The Annual National Stephen Lawrence Day is intended to:

- Provide every school-age child with age and contextually appropriate opportunities to learn about Stephen Lawrence, his life and legacy.
- Celebrate and teach children the importance of respect for diversity, equality and inclusion.
- Reinforce the skills that children need in order to challenge discrimination and racism.
- Reflect on how we can *Live Our Best Life*.

[PPT1 Stephen Lawrence Day School Information Booklet]

The 22 April 2018 marked the 25th Anniversary of the senseless murder of Stephen Lawrence, a young man who had a bright future ahead of him. At the memorial service to celebrate his life, the Prime Minister, Teresa May, announced the Annual National Day of Remembrance and Commemoration of Stephen which is to be held on or around 22 April 2019. As a school community, we have been invited and encouraged, to use the memory of Stephen's life and legacy as an opportunity for influencing the lives of the children and young people in our school.

The theme of the day is "Live Our Best Life". This is intended to focus on building pupils' confidence and skills relating to emotional intelligence, resilience, respect and care so that children and young people value difference, embrace diversity, behave responsibly and make positive choices to contribute as active, healthy, engaged citizens in multicultural Britain.

Baroness Doreen Lawrence, Stephen's mother, has written a letter to every school and teacher and I'm going to pause for a few minutes so that we can read this short letter **[PPT2 Letter from Baroness Lawrence]**. Some of you will be familiar, and others not so familiar, with the specifics and the importance of Stephen Lawrence's life and legacy. One of the key impacts of Stephen's legacy was a change in the law relating to double jeopardy. In addition, one of the 70 recommendations from the Macpherson Report resulted in a requirement that all schools provide Citizenship education. More details relating to the timeline around Stephen's death and the fight for justice are available on the Stephen Lawrence Day website and I would encourage you to familiarise yourself with the timeline.

A key concern of Baroness Lawrence was to minimise any additional workload for teachers and to this end, the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust has developed a suite of resources that can be used immediately at all school levels from Early Years to Upper Secondary **[PPT3 Information About Resources on the Stephen Lawrence Day Website]**. As a school, at the very least, I would like to suggest that every child is involved in the Assembly, which has been carefully written as part of the resources and has an accompanying PowerPoint presentation. There are further opportunities for extending the themes introduced in the Assemblies by using a range of curriculum entry points **[PPT4 Stephen Lawrence Day Curriculum Starting Points Diagram]**.

Every school has received a Poster **[PPT5 Stephen Lawrence Day Poster]**, which has the strapline "Live Our Best Life", and, as a headteacher [or head of year or Deputy], I would encourage you to think about how you might knit this theme into other work you will already have planned. Perhaps you will use the theme to inspire children [in your class/tutor group] to reflect on the core message of "Live Our Best Life".

Let's take a few minutes to discuss how we might use the Assembly and supporting resources within our classroom setting. I would also like to invite you to ask any questions you might have.