



Villiers School

Celebrating 200 Years

3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and / or Guardians,

As part of our continued commitment to making Villiers School a truly inclusive environment for all in our community, today we celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). IDPD is an annual event which aims to *“promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life”*. The theme for IDPD this year is *“Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world”*.

Our EDI Working Group is exploring and planning a number of events and initiatives this academic year, including:

- Guest speakers, to raise awareness of the experiences of those with disabilities in our school, as well as to encourage acceptance and understanding of difference.
- Promoting opportunities for social inclusivity for all students within our school.
- World Down Syndrome Day, which takes place annually on 21st of March, when we will have guest speakers, wear colourful and/or mismatched socks, and raise money for Down Syndrome Ireland. More information available here: www.downsyndrome.ie
- World Autism Month, which takes place in April each year, when we will have guest speakers and a colours day to raise money for ASD Ireland. More information available here: www.asdireland.ie

Villiers School is also engaged in a number of longer term projects to make our school facilities more accessible for all, including improving accessibility to the dining hall and the school café for persons with disabilities, as well as upgrading doorways to allow for autonomous operation for wheelchair users. We expect many of these projects to be completed during the summer holidays in 2022.

We appreciate your ongoing support of Villiers School’s EDI initiatives, which aim to strengthen our school’s values, to promote diversity and inclusion within our school community, and to provide educational opportunities for all.

Sincerely,

Jill A Storey
Headmistress