



1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Safeguarding and sexual harassment**

As has been highlighted by the "Everyone's Invited" movement, the way in which some genders behave towards others is a national issue. We, and all schools, have an important part to play in educating our students and addressing the issues raised. All genders should feel safe in school.

We take safeguarding incredibly seriously. Our policies and practices are very clear. Abuse of any kind, including peer on peer abuse and sexual harassment are unacceptable. All staff are trained on the best way to respond to disclosures, who to go to and how to reassure the individual making the disclosure at such a vulnerable moment.

Every member of our school community understands that safeguarding is a collective responsibility and as such we ensure that we educate our students on how to safeguard themselves, what a healthy and respectful relationship is, to fully understand respectful behaviour and consent, and that sexual violence and sexual harassment is always wrong.

We undertake work with our students through PSHE, Drama, Religious Education, mentor time, assemblies and in a number of cases on an individual basis. On occasion we need to support students of different genders through external agencies in order for them to understand the implications, consequences and feelings that surround this very important issue. Work on safer behaviours and choices are employed. Obviously, other students are not aware of the interventions and work that is undertaken with individuals and that is how it should be. We must continue to further raise the profile of the work that we, as a school undertake with both parents and students alike and have plans in place to do this.

We encourage our students to share their concerns in order for us to be able to prevent anything further from happening and to put in place the support they are going to need. After Easter we will be having assemblies to remind students who and where they can go if they are concerned about either themselves or others, or if something has happened. Some of the concerns within safeguarding can be very hard for a young person to talk about and therefore we have set up an email address for our students and parents where they feel uncomfortable making the initial disclosure face to face or have a question about support that they can access. This can be found on the safeguarding area of our website along with other resources for supporting your child.

Please be assured that this is something that is at the heart of everything we do and we want to work with our students, parents and carers to ensure you are all fully aware of the issues and how we can tackle them together.

Yours faithfully,

Ms S Megeney - Deputy Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

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