



Dear Parents and Carers

23 April 2021

I am sure you are aware of the current press coverage which has revealed that sexual harassment amongst teenagers is potentially a much wider spread problem than anyone had realised.

As a school, we are very aware that these things do happen and we never assume 'it can't happen here'. I am writing to reassure you that we are taking this matter very seriously, to let you know what we have done so far and to inform you of our plans going forward.

So far, we have:

- Reviewed our policies and practices to confirm that we have secure procedures and training in place for all aspects of safeguarding, referrals and for peer on peer abuse in particular
- Liaised with the police and external agencies to confirm that appropriate support is in place if any concerns are raised
- Ensured that we have shared the NSPCC helpline number around the school so that students have access to help if they feel they don't wish to discuss in school
- Reviewed our PSHE curriculum
- Delivered an assembly covering safeguarding in general and appropriate behaviour towards peers particularly

Next steps:

- We have set up a steering group of senior teachers and safeguarding leads to focus on this issue and to monitor updates, recommendations and implement any further procedures deemed necessary
- We will be issuing an anonymous survey to students to help us ascertain any problems that we may not have been made aware of
- We have signed up to further training to support staff in dealing with any concerns that come to light

In the past, we have responded quickly to concerns raised - for example, if we have had reports of bullying, we have investigated, supported and resolved issues as efficiently and productively as possible; we intend to do the same around this issue.

Please be assured that we are taking this very seriously and are seeking advice from all relevant agencies. We are always open to parents speaking to us if there are concerns they think we should know.

We will keep you updated on our progress in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Keith Howard  
Headteacher