



20 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

New guidance on allegations of sexual harassment and abuse in schools

As you will be aware, there have been many deeply upsetting reports in the press recently of instances where young people have been sexually harassed and/or abused and those instances went unreported. As a result, the government has asked that all schools and colleges undertake a programme of education for students to ensure they know what is appropriate behaviour, and how to report something if needed.

I wanted to let you know how seriously we take this matter and what we will be doing, as an Academy, to educate, support and inform our students further, and to make sure our school continues to be a safe place for all those within it.

From the start of this term we will be holding assemblies and lessons on appropriate behaviour between young people, which will be tailored to the age of the student. Our staff have been fully trained and are able to provide lesson-based information and guidance on a wide range of relevant topics. We understand you may wish to see the material we are covering with students and therefore, if you would like access to any of the materials we will be using, please do make a request via the school office email and we will forward these on to you.

Alongside this, we will be providing students with the opportunity to go to a pastoral 'drop-in' session to seek extra support, and ask questions, if they need it. Students will be given the website address for the NSPCC 'Every Child is Worth Fighting For' site and helpline number. The website provides information and guidance for children and parents on how to stay safe, different types of abuse and what to do if people need to report something. Further information can be found on this link, or through the Academy website:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>.

We also recognise that you, as parents/carers, may have questions around what signs to look out for and how to help your child if something happens. The NSPCC have produced a support page for parents that engages with many questions and concerns, and can be found here or on our website:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/sex-relationships/sexual-behaviour-children/>.

Please be reassured that our safeguarding policies and procedures are robust and that our Academy is a safe place for your child. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school on office@wgacademy.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Clare Barber
Head of Academies