

26th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Child-on-Child Abuse

I hope this letter finds you and your family well, and ready for the next stage of the easing of lockdown restrictions.

No doubt you will have seen the recent national media coverage concerning child-on-child cases of sexual abuse, highlighted by the BBC following the information contained within the 'Everyone's Invited' website, where young people can give testimonies of their personal experiences.

I am writing to assure you that our Academy has the very best safeguarding procedures in place, and we are always working to improve on this practice. As part of the Shaw Education Trust we are engaged in Trust-wide constant review and training in all aspects of safeguarding. However, following this most recent national coverage, I wanted to outline some specific details on this aspect of safeguarding.

- Our Trust-wide safeguarding Policy (available on our website) outlines how we support and deal with cases of children abusing other children, and closely follow DfE guidance contained in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.
- All our staff are involved in local and Trust-wide continuous training, and next term looks specially at child sexual exploitation.
- We have placed the new NSPCC helpline details onto our school website.
- We already ensure our students are well-informed and educated on this particular aspect and we will be looking to highlight it further in the coming half term. You will already have been aware of our new 'Relationships' curriculum introduced this year in response to national guidelines, which covers building positive relationships with others, including the area of sexualised behaviours.
- We have a system in place that allows students to report any concerns they have around their own and others' safety. We will be reinforcing that procedure to them this term through PSHE lessons.
- We have excellent relationships with our local Safeguarding Partners and are in constant contact. We will be looking more specifically at this issue with our partners to ensure we support any student who may become the victim of sexual abuse from a peer.

We take our safeguarding responsibility very seriously and you can be assured that whatever the issue, students will get the best support and advice we can give them. We would also ask that you discuss this matter with your son/daughter and ensure they understand the implications of behaving in any way that is inappropriate to any of their peers, and where your child may have concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely

Mr Clint Lakin
Assistant Principal: Student Services