

June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen in the news recently that Ofsted have published a review into sexual harassment in schools. Nine in ten of the girls they spoke to told them that sexist behaviour was happening in their school community. Ofsted's message to schools was clear: that schools should, "act on the assumption that sexual harassment is affecting their pupils".

This is a challenging message for all of us who are responsible for raising children – both teachers and parents. We do not want to imagine that our young people are either perpetrating these behaviours, or on the receiving end of them. Yet we have a responsibility to face up to the reality that many of them are.

As a school, we take this responsibility seriously. We accept all of the recommendations in Ofsted's review, and will work hard to implement them. We are already strengthening our PSHE provision, including the new RSE Statutory Framework, by introducing fortnightly PSHE timetabled lessons in Year 7 and 9. This will form a significant addition to our existing provision of Conference Days and our tutor time programme and allow us to tackle some of the issues raised by this report in a timely and age-appropriate way. If you would like to read the review and recommendations yourself, then you can find the report [here](#).

Over the final part of this summer term, we will be inviting views from all of our students about how we can continue to best create a culture where all children feel safe and respected, and where there is no place for sexist behaviour. Our school leadership team will use their input to develop an approach together, which we will bring to our school's governors. We will then launch our approach as part of the return to school in September.

In advance of this, I encourage you to talk to your child about this issue. Ofsted found that sexist behaviour is so normalised in our children's culture that most of them simply accept it, and don't feel it is worth reporting. We all have a part to play in challenging this culture. A conversation with their parents may help your child feel more confident discussing their feelings when the time comes in school.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you of the system for reporting anything of concern to the school by using the Report-A-Concern app which can be found on the school website.

Yours sincerely,



**Geraint Brown**  
Principal