10th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure the report published by Ofsted today - [Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges) - has shocked you as much as it has shocked school leaders across the country. In the report it is clear that sexual abuse, harassment and the sharing of explicit images is far more prevalent than any of us could have imagined, to the point that it is in grave danger of becoming normalised in society. As a community we cannot allow this to happen.

Clearly we all have a responsibility to address this now and as an educational establishment we will we always strive to lead the way through educating our students to be responsible, respectful and law-abiding citizens. Our PSHE and RSE curriculum, in line with government guidance, already addresses healthy relationships, bullying and online safety but we will do even more to develop and enhance this even further this term and as part of our ongoing curriculum review process.

Our staff safeguarding training already addresses all of the guidance from ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’, which is the core, statutory safeguarding document designed to guide staff in the reporting, recording and monitoring of all abuse. In addition to this, we will be repeating key parts of our staff training over the next week to ensure it is fresh and current and our staff are empowered to always be working to keep our students safe from any kind of harm.

We promise to listen to our students and continue to believe them when they report incidents. We have already had numerous issues reported to us via the [reporting@lecacademy.org](mailto:reporting@lecacademy.org) email address and we urge students, parents and members of the wider community to use it if they have **any** concern about the safety and wellbeing of our students. We promise to investigate every incident fully and to take the sternest action, including police involvement if necessary, to eradicate this from our school and our community.

I urge all parents to reinforce the messages we will be clearly sending to our students in response to this report and to check your child’s device daily for messages and pictures in **all** the platforms they use. It is never acceptable, and in many cases illegal, to body-shame, bully, harass, touch or request pictures from another member of our community, in or out of school. It is never acceptable to send unwanted pictures or to request them, or share pictures without consent.

It is never acceptable to abuse, verbally or physically, online or in person, another member of our community. It should be noted that many of the behaviours listed above are also criminal offences which we would refer directly to the police for advice or further action. I therefore urge our students and parents to report **every** incident to us so we can address it as a matter of urgency.

Please see the following website for further guidance when discussing these issues with your child.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe>

Thank you all for your support.

Scott Gaskins

Head of School, LECA