

Monday 26th April, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

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 national media coverage over the last few weeks 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. It is clear that this is something that is more relevant for secondary settings and beyond, however I wanted to make clear to you that as our approach for anything linked to safeguarding is 'it could happen here', we have reviewed our processes and responded accordingly.

We have secure safeguarding procedures in place, which are frequently audited by Trust directors, 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 this term looks specially at child sexual exploitation.
- We have placed the new NSPCC helpline details onto our school website.
- The RSE curriculum (Relationships and Sex Education) covers building positive relationships with others, including what is appropriate.
- We have a system in place that allows pupils to report any concerns they have around their own and others' safety. We will be reinforcing that procedure to them this term. This is enhanced by the system I informed you about earlier this year, called 'Whisper Anonymous Reporting', with which children can report any safeguarding concerns and worries when they are not in school. All KS2 children received a lesson video on this during lockdown.

- 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 pupil 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, pupils will get the best support and advice we can give them. A useful resource which can help to guide both professionals and parents is the Brook Traffic Light Tool

(<https://www.seabridgeprimary.org.uk/uploads/Documents/Key%20information/Safeguarding/Recognising%20appropriate%20behaviour%20Brook%20Traffic%20Light%20Tool.pdf>) and there

is also a wealth of general safeguarding information on our website

<https://www.seabridgeprimary.org.uk/about-us/key-information/safeguarding>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Harrison
Headteacher

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