

Statement concerning Sexism and Sexual Harassment in Schools

In June 2021, following media attention and the responses to the “Everyone’s Invited” website, Ofsted published its report into Sexual abuse in School and Colleges. This review has enabled all schools to appreciate the magnitude of this problem across the country and to work together to bring about positive change. Click on [Ofsted Report](#) to see the full text.

The report highlights that a culture of sexism and sexual abuse exists across England’s schools, that it is primarily (although not exclusively) boys abusing girls, that this abuse has become ‘normalised’ behaviour and that it can happen in any school or educational setting.

Our Mission is to enable our students to use their gifts to build the society of the future – in so doing, we must be mindful of the nature of the society we want to see. If we are to make a positive change, we need to model now the behaviours we wish to see at national level tomorrow. Sexual abuse can happen at any school and we are taking action now to put into place policies, procedures and training to ensure that it is dealt with appropriately.

We began with a review of our Relationships and Sexual Education scheme of work, to ensure that we had adequately covered the areas highlighted in the report. We then moved on to updating our Safeguarding and Behaviour policies to reflect the emphasis upon these abusive behaviours. We continue to review our Online Safety procedures. We have booked the inspirational speaker Marilyn Hawes to speak to KS2 children and run a parent workshop in the Spring. We are also constantly evaluating the effectiveness of our circle times and making adjustments to ensure that they support our aim of creating the culture of respect throughout the school we all wish to see.

As a Church school, we see everyone made in God’s image, everyone created equal and each person of equal value. Sexual abuse and sexual harassment go against our mission as a school and so go against the very nature of our school. We want to see the teachings of Jesus made real in all aspects of our society, we will take action to change behaviours and play our role to change society for the better.

We hope you can all support us with this endeavour.