

You will be aware of the recent Ofsted Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges and the media attention it has received. Dagenham Park Church of England School is committed to promoting a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated.

We are proud of our safeguarding systems and our focus on wellbeing, which enables us to identify issues and intervene early to better protect our children and young people. Our pupils are aware of the school's zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and feel supported when reporting incidents.

Our staff have regular safeguarding training with careful monitoring, and we educate our pupils about healthy relationships, respect and consent. We regularly review and update our safeguarding policy and associated policies which are available on our website. I encourage you to read these.

We have in place a whole-school approach to address issues of sexual abuse and online harassment. This includes:

- a carefully sequenced PDE and RSHE curriculum, based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance, that specifically includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online. This includes time for open discussion of topics, such as consent and the sending of 'nudes'
- high-quality training for teachers delivering RSHE
- routine record-keeping and analysis of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, to identify patterns and intervene early to prevent abuse
- a behavioural approach, including sanctions when appropriate, to reinforce a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated
- working closely with outside agencies to offer the full range of support available to children and young people who are victims or who perpetrate harmful sexual behaviour
- training and guidance to ensure that all staff are able to:
 - better understand the definitions of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online sexual abuse
 - identify early signs of peer-on-peer sexual abuse
 - consistently uphold standards in their responses to sexual harassment and online sexual abuse

Of course, there is always more to do. Our Student Equalities Committee and our 'Be Her Lead' Team met recently to generate and coordinate ideas to help us, as a school, look for ways to improve what we do. We have been so impressed, yet again, by the thoughtful and sensitive approach that pupils have taken to this issue and the action plan they have supported us in developing. This term all pupils will receive a dedicated session on gender equality and preventing sexual harassment planned and led by our staff and student equalities teams.