



20th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Ofsted Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges

I know that many of you will have heard about the national response to the Everyone's Invited website in recent weeks. This led to an Ofsted Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges. The findings of this review were published on 10 June 2021.

It is clear that the Ofsted findings raise a significant national and societal issue and in that context, I wish to remind parents and carers of the safeguards that we have in place to ensure that the risk to our students is reduced:

- All staff have updated safeguarding training in line with the latest government guidance. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy has guidance within it around peer on peer abuse and harmful sexual behaviour, along with our response procedures. Further information on peer on peer abuse, including prevention and procedures we follow, sits within our separate Peer on Peer Abuse Policy. These policies are available on our College website policies' page here [Helston Community College – Policies' Page](#). We also follow the guidance in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).
- All students are taught the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum. This programme is comprehensive in nature and age-appropriate. Our new [RSE Policy](#) is available on the College website policies' page. We are actively responding to Student Voice to help shape and adapt this programme as we move into a new academic year, which is hopefully free from disruption.
- The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. We understand the responsibility to educate our students in Online Safety Issues; teaching them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the internet and related technologies, in and beyond the context of the classroom. Our [Online Safety and Data Security Policy](#) is available on the College website policies' page.
- We have additional information for parents regarding online safety and supporting your child on the [Safeguarding page](#) of our College website.
- All students benefit from working in a calm, safe school underpinned by a clear behaviour policy and expectations. Sanctions are used when students move beyond our boundaries of acceptable behaviour. Our [Behaviour Policy](#) is available on our College website policies' page.
- We have high expectations of conduct from all members of our community including respect, honesty, kindness, tolerance and courtesy. We communicate these values every day through high expectations of behaviour and this is further supplemented by our PSHE curriculum that is delivered through class sessions and as part of our assemblies and through the tutor programme.
- We work with specialist external agencies such as the Police and Brook to help us deliver key areas of the PSHE programme such as online safety and safe relationships.

- Students know who they can speak to if they have a concern. Over the last year we have increased the capacity of our Pastoral Support Team and are seeking to add a new member to the safeguarding team. We have posters around the College with photographs of key members of staff who are on the Safeguarding team to ensure that students know who they can go to for this support. **The Designated Safeguarding Lead is currently myself, Mr David Lewis, and for the next academic year it will be Mr Andrew Oates. The Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Ms Paula Martin and Mrs Karen Harvey.**
- Students are well supported throughout the day, including during break and lunchtimes. There is a high level of supervision to ensure that all students are safe and have access to trusted adults should they need to report any concern. There are members of the leadership team on-call throughout the College day and available to support students with any concerns or matters.
- We have recently added a **'Report an Incident or Concern'** form to our website, on the Quick Links section of the homepage. We want to encourage all students to report incidents of sexual harassment, or unacceptable behaviour of any type.
- We benefit from the strong governance of the Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust and our College's Local Governing Body. In practice, this involves regular visits to the College and regular, detailed monitoring of safeguarding processes alongside quality training and developmental support.

Our position as a Trust and as a College is clear: **sexual violence and sexual harassment are never acceptable, will never be tolerated, and are not an inevitable part of growing up.**

Our College will continue to play our part in challenging these issues. However, we are realistic in our understanding of the current climate, the scale of the issues and the fact that this is a society-wide problem. We will continue to work hard in the coming years to promote equality, to encourage people to speak out and support them when they experience difficulties or harm.

What should I do if I have concerns?

To continue to keep everyone safe, we must keep lines of communication open. The appropriate means for disclosing an allegation of abuse relating to another student is always to inform a member of the safeguarding team directly. In the event that an allegation is made against a member of staff, this must be sent to Wayne Jenkins, the Headteacher. If the allegation is against the Headteacher, this must be sent to Donna Bryant, Trust Executive Leader. Details of this are in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. We will always act on concerns raised.

External support is always available from:

The Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) 0300 1231 116

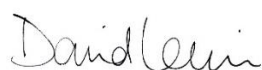
Cornwall Children's Social Care - out of hours 01208 251300

Childline on 0800 1111

NSPCC on 0800 136663 or help@nspcc.org.uk

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Mr D Lewis
Assistant Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead