



Joseph Leckie Academy

23rd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following Ofsted's national review of sexual abuse in all schools across the country, published on Thursday 10th June 2021, I wanted to share with you some of the ways we, here at Joseph Leckie Academy, are working with our students to ensure they are both, educated about this topic and feel fully supported.

The Ofsted national review includes several key findings including that across the country many people appear to have accepted that peer-on-peer abuse (abuse of one student by another student) is just a part of growing up. They also cite media reports that say young people in England feel that sexual harassment, unwanted sexual behaviours and online sexual abuse, is so commonplace that they no longer think about reporting it. In short, the report concludes that Harmful Sexual Behaviour among young people in the country has become normalised.

As part of the Academy's ongoing effort to avoid normalising this behaviour, we are writing to you to update you on the actions we are taking as an Academy to address this issue and to request your continuing support as we implement further measures committed to safeguarding all of our students.

In May 2021 we delivered virtual assemblies on the following subjects with each Year Group:

- **Year 7 - Sexting (nudes)** - Sexting is when sexually explicit text messages are sent from mobile phones or devices, these could be text or image-based. This assembly clarified what sexting is, what the risks are, and what the law says about sexting. It used two case studies that have been in the press to illustrate key points and dangers.
- **Year 8 to 11 - Sexual Bullying, Harassment and Exploitation** - Young people may exhibit inappropriate sexual behaviour or experience it at the hands of their peers. This assembly explored how and why this may happen and was designed to help young people know how to deal with it. It considers behaviour, ranging from sexual jokes and bullying to harassment and sexual exploitation and students explored the wider social contexts and influences in society and culture. The assembly explained what peer-on-peer abuse is and that there is no line between 'banter' and any form of bullying or abuse. Bullying, including sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, will not be tolerated at the Academy.

At Joseph Leckie Academy, safeguarding in the curriculum is delivered through our assemblies, tutor time and our Personal Development Programme (PDP). The Relationship, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) curriculum for the forthcoming academic year has also been carefully planned to meet the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance, which specifically includes covering topics such as sexual harassment and sexual violence. This includes activity online, as well as a focus on the laws of sharing images, consent and unwanted touching.

Joseph Leckie Academy

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Our role as an Academy is not only to educate students but to support them in identifying the potential risks they may face in an ever-changing community. Education does not create more sexual harassment; it puts a name on the inappropriate behaviour that already exists. Education does not create more problems for us as staff but allows existing problems to be identified and resolved.

We have a wealth of E-safety information available on our website which we encourage all students, parents and carers to read. This guidance is to help reduce the risk of harm and to keep students safe online. If you feel you require support the NSPCC helpline is also available for victims of sexual abuse in schools, 0800 136 135. We continue to share our ethos of being a 'telling school' and strongly encourage students to report any incidents.

To expand on the information delivered in May, during the week commencing 27th September 2021, we will be holding Safeguarding assemblies to remind students of the laws around Consent and Sexual Harassment. As part of the assemblies, we intend to ask students to take part in a survey as part of the Academy audit. This will enable us to examine our responses to harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). We recognise that speaking to students is essential when trying to determine if or what is happening in our school and how we can improve our response to HSB. The student survey focuses on keeping children safe from sexual bullying and other types of sexual harm. The survey will not ask students anything about their personal experiences.

- We will provide each student with a leaflet in advance of the survey taking place that provides them with information to help them decide if they would like to take part.
- Every student will need to give their consent to take part, as we don't want any student taking part who doesn't want to.
- The purpose of the survey - to evaluate the current situation in our school related to HSB and allow students to feel comfortable to reflect on their views on the school response to HSB. It is important the survey is confidential and anonymous.
- The survey is made up of mostly multiple-choice questions, with a few other questions asking students to explain these answers

Following the survey, students will receive a guidance sheet sharing details of where they are able to access support, if anything has worried or upset them. As an Academy, all matters of peer-on-peer abuse will be addressed and at times, the safeguarding team may need to seek advice from outside agencies, including the Police and Children's Social Care.

It is important we have a whole school approach and school ethos to support the development of healthy and respectful relationships. Therefore, I would like to introduce the Joseph Leckie Academy Pledge:

"Everyone has a right to their personal space being respected and should also be respectful towards others. If you feel uncomfortable as a result of someone's actions, do something about it. Because you are worth it!"

Thank you for your continued support

Yours faithfully



Mr. James Ludlow
Principal