

Haileybury Turnford

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14th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Everyone's Invited website

The website, "Everyone's Invited" invites anyone affected by sexual harassment, abuse or assault to share their experiences anonymously. Many of the testimonials submitted relate to experiences of children and young people at schools, college or university. The accounts are distressing and shocking and we would not want any individual to go through this experience or consider this acceptable.

A concern for all of us is that the existence of such a site suggests that young people are reluctant to share allegations or concerns of peer on peer abuse with their parents and carers, or their school, particularly if it includes sexual harassment or violence. We could never promise confidentiality because we may well be required to work with external safeguarding agencies, but we do have expertise of dealing with very sensitive issues carefully. We would never underestimate how hard it would be for a victim to make a disclosure but we would support a young person through the process and be respectful, as far as possible, of their wishes. We believe that it is far better to bring these issues to the surface and try to deal with them, rather than bury them.

We will continue to reinforce with students what is acceptable, respectful behaviour in this context. We will reflect on these issues in our wider Personal Development curriculum and through assemblies, Personal and Social Development and tutor time to ensure that we are addressing these issues consistently and fully, being clear that young men, and women in particular, have the right to live without the fear of harassment. If any student has any concerns about sexual harassment, we would take their concerns seriously and hope that they would feel comfortable speaking to a member of pastoral or safeguarding staff. Likewise, we hope that parents and carers will always raise concerns about issues impacting their children, regardless of whether they have taken place in or out of school.

It is concerning to learn through the safeguarding training that all staff have, that sexting is often expected as part of a relationship. Requesting or sending inappropriate images by any gender poses a serious safeguarding risk, and the likelihood of content being shared further – violating an individual's privacy and causing a great deal of harm. As a school, we will continue to reinforce the importance of e-safety and appropriate conduct online. Please continue to talk to your child about their use of the internet.

We will continue to promote respect and inclusivity and the values of our school working to ensure that the school is a place where everyone is valued. If you have concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of our pastoral or safeguarding teams.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Goodes
Vice Principal



Haileybury Turnford, Mill Lane, Cheshunt, EN8 0JU 01992 308333
enquiries@haileyburyturnford.com

Principal: Robin Newman MSc MBA

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