



18 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the recent events across our local community, the country and around the globe, historical and current peer-on-peer abuse is being increasingly discussed and the need for action acknowledged. We have seen protests in our cities and towns and we stand with those who call for a safe environment for all, protected from discrimination and peer-on-peer abuse.

Today, students have made their voices heard at St Katherine's with a protest on the bottom field during the day. The students were raising awareness around sexual misconduct and peer-on-peer abuse. The school takes all forms of misconduct and peer-on-peer abuse seriously and this morning we reminded students how to report any concerns. We also made safe spaces available in every year group bubble area to allow students to speak with a female member of staff.

Whilst most students conducted themselves respectfully, we were disappointed with the conduct, vocabulary and tone of conversation of some students. We understand and recognise why emotions were running high but we expect better. Whilst we fully support students in sharing their voice, we do expect this to be done respectfully and responsibly. We will be speaking with students to remind them of our values and expectations. Thank you to the many parents/carers for helping us guide students back to lessons after lunchtime. It is important for us to continue to support students in having their voices heard in the right way. We expect all students to be in lessons tomorrow.

We continue to encourage students to report any concerns to the school by:

- Speaking to a member of staff
- Completing the online Tell Someone form which can be completed anonymously
- Email tellsomeone@skdrive.org

By reporting concerns, we can ensure that a thorough investigation can take place prior to any necessary actions being put in place.

We are aware that allegations concerning staff members have been widely circulated on social media and thank parents/carers for bringing this to our attention. If students have any concerns about a member of staff, this must be reported to the school immediately to ensure appropriate action can be taken. Allegations must not be shared online. We value the wellbeing of all members of our community and malicious allegations or defamatory comments will be dealt with seriously.

This evening, leaders have met to discuss all the points raised by students today and we will speak with students tomorrow and in the coming weeks about how we can continue to effect positive change within our community together. In response to recent national events, over the last term we have been reviewing our approach as a school, alongside our curriculum and policies. To date this has included:

- Updates to our behaviour policy to include clear recording and reporting procedures for discriminatory incidents;
- Mrs Crocker, our Designated Safeguarding Lead working with students to revise our approach to peer-on-peer abuse.
- Student voice activities on the Healthy Relationships aspect of the PSHE curriculum

We continue to consider how we further educate students on all forms of discrimination and peer-on-peer abuse through our tutor time, assembly and wider curriculum provision.

Tomorrow we are looking forward to welcoming visitors to St Katherine's from Trinity Academy and BCCS as part of our annual CST Improvement Cycle. The day will involve a range of activities including student voice workshops across our year group bubbles and we encourage students to speak openly and honestly. The feedback from the day will be used to inform our school improvement plan which will be shared with staff, governors and parents/carers during Term 6.

Yours sincerely



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