



**Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence**

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

November 2021

Dear Parents

### Sexual Harassment in Schools

I know that many of you will have read about the national response to the Everyone's Invited website in recent months. This is a website that has been set up with the purpose of changing societal attitudes by highlighting examples of sexual harassment, sexual violence, and abuse through anonymous testimonies (to date, over 14,000 anonymous allegations have been made). Following on from this, Ofsted was asked by the government to carry out a rapid review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges. Their findings can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>

The nature and volume of testimony regarding alleged abuse on social media is reflective of an issue for the whole of our society, and as a Trust and school, we recognise and take seriously the role that we play in setting a culture of mutual respect for all. We remain committed to ensuring that every child benefits from a calm and respectful climate for learning. I hope that this letter offers you reassurance that we acknowledge the importance of this issue.

Our position as a trust and school is clear: **sexual violence and sexual harassment are never acceptable, will never be tolerated and are not an inevitable part of growing up.** I can assure you that we will never permit such behaviour to become accepted and we remain committed to working openly and transparently with our student community to promote mutual respect.

As part of our own monitoring, we would like all students in Year 7 - 13 to participate in a survey in school during this half term. This is anonymous and the results will be used to identify any areas in and out of school where this behaviour may be happening and help to develop a full response to the issues, including educating our students about healthy relationships through our PSHE programme and assemblies.

### **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. In the event that an allegation is made against **a member of staff**, this must be sent directly to the Headteacher. We will always act on concerns raised.

Students can also send a request for support at any time via [studenthelp@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:studenthelp@colfox.dorset.sch.uk).



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The Registered office is at: The Sir John Colfox Academy, The Ridgeway, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3DT  
Tel: 01308 422291: Email: [office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk)

We recognise that this is a very sensitive issue. It is important however that we are able to fully ascertain the nature of concerns for our students if we are to help keep them safe. We will ensure that any questions asked are mindful of the age and developmental stage of your child. If you would prefer that your child does not take part in the survey, you can opt out by e-mailing [t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk) by Thursday 18 November stating the full name and tutor group of your child.

External support is always available from:

- Childline on 0800 1111
- NSPCC on 0800 136663 or [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Duffy  
Designated Safeguarding Lead.  
The Sir John Colfox Academy.



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