

April 2021

Dear parents and carers,

You may be aware of recent news reports relating to a website called '[Everyone's Invited](#)', set up for people to share anonymous testimonies relating to sexual harassment and sexual violence. Since the 8th of March 2021, an increasing number of anonymous testimonies have been submitted. These testimonies come from young people of all ages and relate to a wide variety of situations; some refer to incidents that have taken place within schools.

In response to this, Ofsted has launched an [immediate review](#) into sexual abuse in schools. This will conclude by the end of May 2021 and will report on good safeguarding practice in schools and where improvements can be made. In addition, the government has asked the NSPCC to set up a helpline for pupils, parents and professionals to support potential victims of sexual abuse and provide advice. This helpline is now live and can be accessed by calling **0800 136 663**. Please do make use of this number and share it with your children if you or they feel that they may need support.

At the Oxfordshire Hospital School we would like to reiterate our firm commitment to the belief that sexual violence and harassment of any sort are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. The nature of our work, with teaching usually being delivered one-to-one or in small groups, means that opportunities for harassment and violence between the young people we work with during school time are very limited, and we have not received any reports of this. However, we recognise that we must not be complacent and our staff remain vigilant to any signs of behaviour that may create a cause for concern. We also recognise that due to the strong professional relationships we form with young people, they may wish to disclose information about historic incidents. All such disclosures are listened to, taken seriously and reported to our Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure that appropriate follow-up actions can be taken.

As well as engaging with the current Ofsted review and acting on its recommendations, we will be paying close attention to this area in our upcoming annual safeguarding review, in order to ensure our policies and procedures are as strong as possible. We also continue to review our PSHE curriculum to ensure we provide appropriate guidance to our pupils on how to behave safely and how to share any concerns they may have. All our school policies, including our Safeguarding Policy and our Relationships and Sex Education Policy, can be found [on our school website](#).

If you would like to develop your own knowledge of this area, there are a number of resources available to support you in this. The 'Stop it Now' initiative has produced a [Harmful Sexual Behaviour Prevention Toolkit](#) aimed at parents, carers, family members and professionals to help everyone play their part in keeping children safe. There is also a useful series of videos on the [Parents Protect](#)

[website](#), to enable parents, carers and professionals to understand potential risks, recognise signs of abuse and know where to go for help if they have concerns.

If you have any questions about this area or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact us at office@ohs.oxon.sch.uk and one of our safeguarding team will be in touch with you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Lowe', with a horizontal line underneath.

Stephen Lowe
Headteacher

Daniel Lawrence
Designated Safeguarding Lead

The OHS Safeguarding Team