



The Macclesfield Academy

Dear Parent,

10th September 2021

Re: Response to national report on sexual harassment and assault

May I begin by thanking parents for your support in getting us off to such a great start to the academic year. We received some wonderful feedback from the parents of our new Year 7 to say how much they have been enjoying being part of our school community.

Over the course of this week, Mr Nicholson and I have been leading assemblies to welcome the students back and set out our expectations regarding behaviour (Ready, Respectful, Safe), our school culture and the standards we expect from all students. Part of this message has been to talk about nationally significant developments in safeguarding.

As you may be aware from the reporting in the media, Ofsted commissioned a piece of work to look at sexual harassment and assault as a response to the 'Everyone's Invited' survey. The focus has been on how schools, colleges and universities deal with this element of safeguarding. We are confident, having been regularly audited by external partners that our safeguarding processes and systems continue to be effective but also subscribe to the mind-set that 'it could happen here' and guard against complacency.

With this in mind, we have launched our 'It's not okay' initiative, which is a joint project between staff and the student leadership team to ensure the whole school community is crystal clear that sexual harassment and assault is completely unacceptable. This also forms a strand in our Relationships and Sex Education curriculum, which is delivered to students on a Thursday afternoon.

As part of the local authority work, if you wish your child to contribute to their data gathering exercise, please complete the survey which you can find in the email version of this letter.

If you have any questions about the RSE curriculum or our response to the tackling sexual harassment agenda, please do contact Dr Skarratt (SENCO and RSE lead) or me.

Thanks, as ever, for your support.

Yours,

Mat Galvin

