

Broad Chalke Primary School

Statement on Sexual Abuse in schools and colleges

Ofsted's recently published report into sexual abuse in schools has revealed some concerning trends regarding the prevalence of peer-on-peer sexual harassment and violence, including online abuse.

The review has also revealed that for some children and young people, such abuse is so commonplace that they feel it is not worth reporting. The **Everyone's Invited** website includes young people's accounts of sexual abuse linked to schools, colleges and universities across the country.

At Broad Chalke Primary School, we are actively developing a culture where all kinds of sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are recognised and addressed. We want the environment in our school to be one in which staff model respectful and appropriate behaviour, where children are clear about what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and where they are confident to ask for help and support when they need it.

Through the new Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum we advocate the explicit teaching and development of important attributes such as respect, honesty, kindness, tolerance and courtesy. Important issues such as personal privacy, respect and consent to ensure that children have a good understanding of how to behave towards their peers, are part of the guidance in the curriculum.

Through the new Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum we play a crucial role in teaching children about sex and relationships, equality and diversity and modern citizenship. This is enacted through the culture of our school, our curriculum, and our policies. We recognise that we have a vital responsibility in tackling sexual violence and harassment and instilling good values in our children and their respect for one another.

Like so much of education, our work must complement that undertaken by parents and carers so that children receive a consistent message and can go about their lives free from harassment and abuse. We will continue to engage with our children, listen to their concerns and signpost necessary support provision within and beyond our school. We ask that anyone who has experienced such behaviour, or who is suffering because of it, to report it to an appropriate trusted adult in school so they can be supported, and steps can be taken to address the issue.

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