

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Ofsted review on Sexual Harrassment in Schools

Thursday 17th June 2021

Dear families,

As you may know, Ofsted recently published a report about their findings relating to Sexual Harrassment in schools. You can read the report here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>

Whilst it would be easy to say that we are a primary setting with relatively low numbers of behavioural, safeguarding and welfare concerns, we do not wish to be complacent about something so important. We have read and discussed the report and the many findings considered.

At Springvale we feel that we have robust and effective systems, underpinned by policies and procedures that are consistently applied by all staff. Indeed, we are fortunate to have a community of skilled and experienced Governors as well as informed and passionate parents who support our work each day.

This doesn't mean that we cannot do more to help our community and the wider world to be a fairer, safer and more tolerant place to learn, work and live. We are working hard to make exactly that happen in the following ways:

- We have introduced a new Relationships and Sexual Education curriculum across the whole school which will continue to grow and develop each year. This is now taught earlier than ever before so that young children can feel safe and have a greater understanding of their body and why it is special.
- We have timetabled weekly wellbeing (PHSE) time for all classes from September 2021 as well as a weekly wellbeing assembly theme.
- All of our staff, leaders and Governors are trained in safeguarding skills and procedures to the required levels.
- Our ethos is centred on inclusivity, safety and being happy.
- Our curriculum at all levels teaches children about other cultures, the world around them and respecting differences.
- A passion for ensuring that our practice is steeped in equality and not influenced by outdated views

We hope that you agree that we are well placed to support your child's journey through their primary years but we would urge you to contact us if we can help you in any way further. We would also ask that you make contact with us immediately if your child ever experiences anything that makes them feel unsafe, uncomfortable or concerned.

We feel that is important for everyone involved with the school to take a highly vigilant approach and to apply a zero tolerance stance to any behaviour that makes pupils, parents, staff, Governors or visitors feel harassed, unsafe, disrespected or prejudiced against.

We would also urge, once again, all parents to carefully consider the use of the internet and devices as the report suggests that many of the issues are becoming more widespread online. This might include sharing inappropriate content or images. We would always ask parents to follow the age recommendations linked to apps, websites and games/films, etc. and also to check your child's phone to look out for any content of concern (sending **or** receiving). These are there to protect your child. In 2020 we adapted our Computing Curriculum to include a wider range of learning about online safety which will supplement the wellbeing curriculum, the special events we have for children and parents and our regular assemblies.

Thank you for your fantastic support as always.

Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher