

Alternative Provision Service
Launchpad Tuition Service
The Beacon Building
4th Floor
25 College Street
St Helens
Merseyside
WA10 1TF

Robertvaughan@sthelens.gov.uk
Tel: 01744 677522

20th October 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

We are writing to you to ask for your support. You will have seen much media coverage in recent months involving incidents of violence against women and girls.

Through PSHE, assemblies and key worker sessions we educate students about healthy and respectful relationships, what respectful behaviour looks like, consent, gender roles, stereotyping, equality, body confidence and self-esteem, prejudiced behaviour, addressing cultures of sexual harassment and that sexual violence and sexual harassment are always wrong.

To highlight the size of the issue we have included, extracts from a recent OFSTED review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges.

'Schools and colleges cannot tackle sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, on their own, and neither should they. For example, the prevalence of children and young people seeing explicit material they do not want to see and being pressured to send 'nudes' is a much wider problem than schools can address. While they can play their part, it is not only their responsibility to solve it.'

So today we are asking for your support and to sit down with your own family members and engage in discussion and dialogue about the following matters, alongside the support they are given in school:

- **Banter:** the way 'banter' can lead to the trivialisation or normalisation of sexual abuse and violence against women - and the importance of challenging 'banter' for what it is; the sexualisation of females for the personal satisfaction of others
- **Victim-blaming:** the idea that someone 'deserves it' because of what they were wearing or where and when they were in a place. Nobody deserves to be degraded.
- **Victim-shaming:** using derogatory terms about someone, usually a girl, if they have engaged in sexual activity with a male or sending nude pictures, even though they may have been coerced, pressured, bullied, forced, or tricked into it.
- **Women as objects:** giving marks out of ten, whistling at girls, making sexualised comments are all examples of how females are viewed as objects, not human beings.

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Our service is working to support changes to the way people of all gender are perceived in society and we hope you can support this at home by policing the access young people have to age appropriate material. If you have any concerns regarding healthy relationship advice, or you are unsure about anything, please feel free to contact myself or your child's key worker for further support.

Yours sincerely



Rob Vaughan
Teacher in Charge

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