



All Hallows RC High School

Specialising in Business, Enterprise & Sports

150 Eccles Old Road, Salford M6 8AA

Telephone: 0161 921 1900

E-mail: allhallows@salford.gov.uk

Website: www.allhallowssalford.com

Headteacher: Mrs A. Cavanagh

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Safeguarding Newsletter

This newsletter provides a plethora of information about how school and parents/carers can work together to safeguard our children.

At All Hallows we endeavour to provide a safe culture where pupils can;

- feel confident to report concerns
- understand how and who to report their concerns to
- feel their concern will be valued and supported.

To ensure that pupils know how to keep themselves safe we must encourage an open honesty about their experiences, so that they know it is always safe to disclose to a trusted adult in school.

Sexual Harassment in Schools

Very recently, OFSTED completed a national investigation into sexual harassment in schools and colleges—a large scale review of safeguarding in respect of this one issue. After speaking to over 900 pupils, it became clear to OFSTED that there is a significant issue with sexual harassment in education and the associated gender violence consequences.

What is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment, in general, is any unwanted sexual attention face to face or on-line that can cause physical, emotional, mental or psychological harm to the victim.

Normalising Sexual Harassment

In OFSTED's findings, children and young people said that sexual harassment occurs so frequently in their various schools that it has become 'commonplace'. 92% of girls, and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. The frequency of these harmful sexual behaviours means that some children and young people consider them normal. It is our responsibility to challenge this behaviour and address any areas of concern.

What is your child doing on their phone or device?

OFSTED found that where children were being coerced into sending inappropriate images, this was often happening on social media platforms such as What's App and Snapchat. How are you monitoring who your child is communicating with online and offline? Do you know what they are saying and sending? Do you know what your child is seeing and hearing? OFSTED found evidence of pupils of all ages sending and receiving inappropriate material

on their phones, children having their photo taken without consent and shared, children being put under pressure to send photos of themselves to others. Parents must have trusting relationships with their children about phone use but one built on vigilance and safeguarding.

How are we preventing and protecting our children from Sexual Harassment at All Hallows?

Boys and girls mix together in every social environment, at every age and many children will never experience sexism, harassment or abuse based on gender.

We are teaching our children about healthy relationships, respectful behaviour, gender roles, stereotyping and equality, body confidence and self-esteem and prejudiced behaviour. We do this through our RSE and RE curriculum, assemblies, form time and in our day to day dealings with children during lessons and at breaktimes.

It is important that our children know that sexual harassment and sexual violence is always wrong and will not be tolerated.

Our aim is to be proactive in creating an environment that teaches boys and girls how to behave respectfully towards each other, and how to respect personal/physical boundaries that are set. We do not wish to frighten children and we are ensuring that the content is age appropriate; teaching them an understanding of dignity and respect for themselves, thereby giving them skills to respect others.

How can we work together to support and educate pupils about sexual harassment?

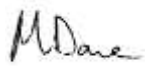
- ◆ Pupils who are the victim of any level of inappropriate sexual behaviour must report their concern. In order for them to do this, adults must make it safe for them to do so.
- ◆ Staff and parents should make sure they model the best ways of showing respect between the genders and challenge any attempt by family members, friends, other parents and organisations to undermine that work.
- ◆ Challenge children if they are using stereotypical or sexist language and educate why it is wrong - the sooner we remove the normalisation of this language, the better.
- ◆ Teach our children (and model) what healthy relationships look like - this is lifelong learning that will shape how a child views their future interactions with people and what they see as acceptable.
- ◆ Teach our children about consent.
- ◆ Make sure our children know that they can say "No" when the behaviour of another person crosses an acceptable boundary.
- ◆ Teach and support our children to tell someone they trust about what has happened to them, ensuring they feel safe and supported.

How will we know if our children are experiencing peer on peer sexual abuse or harassment?

We will be conducting a pupil survey over the next few weeks to gather perceptions about pupil's understanding of sexual harassment. We want to know if they feel this is occurring and when and where this takes place. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your child to conduct this survey at home. We will notify you when the survey is taking place and will let you know our findings and what actions we will be taking to address any issues raised.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support in helping safeguard our children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Done', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Done (Designated Safeguarding Lead)