

January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I am sure you are aware, back in 2021 Ofsted was asked by the government to carry out a [rapid review](#) of sexual abuse in schools and colleges. In Ofsted's report, children and young people reported the following things happened "a lot or sometimes" to them or their peers:

- unwanted touching;
- pressure to do sexual things they didn't want to;
- sexual assault of any kind;
- unwanted or inappropriate sexual comments;
- sexist name calling;
- being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see.

The frequency of these harmful sexual behaviours means that some children and young people consider them normal. Children and young people who are, or are perceived to be, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgender (LGBT) can be targeted by other children, and children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are more likely to be abused than children and young people without additional needs.

All children and young people have a right to grow up safe from abuse and harassment. Settings working with children and young people are central to framing a safeguarding ethos and creating protected spaces for children and young people to explore healthy relationships. There is a duty for settings to ensure they take action to keep children and young people safe. (See part five of [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) for further information.)

There is a strong emphasis on safeguarding children and young people from harm by changing expectations, challenging unacceptable behaviour and improving children and young people's knowledge and understanding of healthy relationships.

We know that the best protection we can give to young people is knowledge of the dangers so that they are aware and can protect themselves, as well as letting them know where they can go for help and support if they are worried. In order to do this, we are presenting an interactive play being delivered by [Loudmouth Education and Training](#) to all of our Year 9 pupils which will tackle the difficult issue of sexual violence and sexual harassment on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The play is called "Calling it Out" and raises awareness of sexual behaviours, sexual harassment, sexual assault, pornography, consent and misogyny.

We will provide an information sheet which has been designed with input from young people to all pupils on where to go if they are worried about any of the issues raised within the play. School staff will also be on hand to help with questions.

The Calling It Out programme supports the ongoing work in schools and colleges to create a culture where sexual harassment and sexual abuse are not tolerated and is being funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning and is supported by Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership and all Partner Agencies in the county.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D Christopher  
Senior Assistant Head and DSL