



## Richard de Clare Community Academy

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**Executive Headteacher:** Mrs C. J. Jaques B.Ed (Hons.), NPQH

**Head of School:** Ms K. Riddleston

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Re: Peer on Peer Abuse (Sexual Harassment/Violence) – National Review**

No doubt you will have seen or heard via the national media that the Department for Education are requesting that Ofsted conduct a national review of 'Peer on Peer' (ie. child to child) sexual harassment and abuse in schools and colleges. While this concern largely centres around Secondary and College settings, it does not preclude the possibility that this could be an issue in Primary Schools or assume that the foundations for inappropriate and potentially abusive behaviours may start earlier than age 11.

The national review will focus on schools where cases have been reported and will seek to establish whether settings have appropriate processes in place to assure students that any concerns they report will be addressed in a timely, appropriate and proportionate way.

I write, therefore, to reassure you of our commitment to affording your children a safe, secure and welcoming environment in which to learn and grow. We have always placed the happiness and safety of our children as the very highest priority and will always endeavour not to allow any behaviours in school to compromise this.

Our pupils have open access to trusted adults with whom they can report their concerns; including their class teacher, our Pastoral Support team or any other member of staff with whom they feel comfortable. Children at Richard de Clare Community Academy are encouraged to share their worries and concerns and we can assure you that we will continue to take any reported issues seriously and address them in an appropriate and proportionate manner. In the last two years we have developed a pastoral team that we know has supported many children in this school and has given our children the opportunity to talk to someone in school if they need to.

In addition, the new Relationship, Health and Sex Education curriculum (2020) advocates the explicit teaching and development of important attributes of relationships such as respect, honesty, kindness, tolerance and courtesy. This is to ensure that more young people have a good understanding of how to behave towards their peers. We are fully committed to the delivery of this curriculum and our RHSE Policy can be reviewed via the school website.

Please be reassured that we will support your child to be safe in school.

Please contact the school if you have any questions or if you feel that your child will benefit from any extra pastoral support in school.

Yours sincerely

Ms K. Riddleston