



27th January 2022

Sexual Respect

In June 2021 Ofsted concluded a study of sexual abuse taking place in schools and colleges, it included testimony and feedback from [Everyone's Invited](#), a national system where people were asked to share their stories and experiences of abuse in schools, over 54,000 testimonies have been made. The mission behind the report and feedback is to expose and eradicate the current culture that exists in schools and colleges, as well as wider society, and promote empathy, compassion and understanding.

Within the extensive findings the following were found to happen so frequently they were considered commonplace:

- misogyny/sexism, jokes about rape, sexual harassment, online sexual abuse (up skirting, non-consensual sharing of intimate photos) and sexual coercion.

Other findings suggest the extent and scale of the problem is underestimated, more worrying still was a statistic that nationally, 80% of children had to report a problem twice before they were believed or listened to. Further findings concluded that there were often misconceptions that it was merely 'banter' when in reality it was derogatory language that causes harm and could be a criminal offence.

As a school and a community, we need to decide that enough is enough and that action is needed now to tackle this national culture. This can only be done collectively and is where the 'Sexual Respect' agenda comes into play. We need to hold each other accountable for our actions and words and sanction and educate where necessary, it is not too late to change.

We have followed the advice and guidance that Ofsted has supplied and undergone the necessary training in awareness and tackling of such behaviour. We have refined our systems and procedures for reporting and logging these incidents and implore students to come forward and report any situation witnessed, experienced, or involved in.

What we need from students now is to be considerate. Considerate of our actions, considerate of our words and considerate of the impact we can have on each other. Students must feel confident coming forward and reporting, this could be to any member of staff they feel comfortable talking to. In addition to this there is the Anti-Bullying button and worried@thehazeleyacademy.com email. By being accountable and showing our good character we can stop this national trend and improve our communities ensuring young people do not need to grow up being subjected to this sort of behaviour.

In addition to the 'Sexual Respect' agenda the Violence Reduction group at MK Council has asked if the following link



can be sent out to parents and staff. The aim of the survey is to find out people in MK's perception of serious violence, how it impacts them or their communities, and what they would like to see done about it. The findings will be fed into a serious violence strategic needs assessment that is currently being undertaken and will shape the ongoing work to tackle serious violence in MK. The survey is 19 questions and will take no longer than 5 mins to complete.

The survey link is here: <https://forms.office.com/r/wZLisTnMTg>

The Council group would be really appreciative of anyone that can complete this, the higher the number of respondents the better the picture they can gain.

Thank you for your support

Mr O Mortimer
Designated Safeguarding Lead