



## Statement on sexual abuse in schools

### St John's Marlborough

Ofsted's recently published report into sexual abuse in schools has revealed some concerning trends regarding the prevalence of peer-on-peer sexual harassment and violence, including online abuse. The review has also revealed that for some young people, such abuse is so commonplace that they feel it is not worth reporting. The Everyone's Invited website includes young people's accounts of sexual abuse linked to schools, colleges and universities across the country.

At St John's, we are actively developing a culture where **all** kinds of sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are recognised and addressed. We want the environment in our schools to be one in which staff model respectful and appropriate behaviour, where children and young people are clear about what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and where they are confident to ask for help and support when they need it.

Through the new Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum, St John's advocates the explicit teaching and development of important attributes such as respect, honesty, kindness, tolerance and courtesy. Important issues such as personal privacy, respect and consent to ensure that more young people have a good understanding of how to behave towards their peers, are part of the guidance in the curriculum.

St John's plays a crucial role in teaching students about sex and relationships, equality and diversity and modern citizenship. This is enacted through our school's culture, curriculum, and policies.

We recognise that we have a vital responsibility in tackling sexual violence and harassment, and instilling good values in our students and their respect for one another. Like so much of education, our work must complement that undertaken by parents and carers so that young people receive a consistent message and can go about their lives free from harassment and abuse.

St John's will continue to engage with students, listen to their concerns and signpost necessary support provision within and beyond school. We ask that anyone who has experienced such behaviour, or who is suffering because of it, report it to an appropriate trusted adult in the school so they can be supported, and steps can be taken to address the issue.