

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the tragic killing of Sarah Everard in March 2021, there has been a national focus on the treatment of women and young girls in society. It became apparent, sadly, that a number of school aged young women and girls had experienced sexual harm both in their schools and in the wider community. Some of the students had reported issues to their respective schools and, in a number of cases, appropriate action had not been taken. In response to this, OFSTED inspectors visited 32 state and private schools and colleges and spoke to more than 900 children and young people about the prevalence of sexual harassment in their lives and the lives of their peers.

Their findings, published in June 2021, reported that the frequency of harmful sexual behaviours meant that some children and young people consider them to be 'normal', and that around 90% of the girls interviewed said that sexist name calling and being sent unwanted explicit pictures or videos happened 'a lot' or 'sometimes'. Pupils said adults often don't realise the prevalence of sexual harassment that occurs both inside and outside school and spoke of teachers not 'knowing the reality' of their lives. The review also found that Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) teaching did not give students the right information and advice in order to make the right choices.

At RPS, we continue to make this an ongoing priority and are committed to ensuring we are regularly informed about our students' lived experiences in order to respond accordingly to support all students and keep them safe. I am writing to you to make you aware that on Wednesday 24th May, in morning registration, we will be asking students across the school to complete an anonymous survey based on their potential experience of sexual harm and their opinions on the quality of our sex and relationship education in school. This survey was first run last year and will continue to form part of our annual student voice cycle to allow us to respond and adapt to current issues. This will not only serve to improve support for students and families but also inform staff training and improve our wider educational offer for all.

All data will be handled sensitively and there will be appropriate support available to students if they need it. We are always keen as a school to ensure we are supporting our young people as effectively as possible in an ever-changing world.

Many thanks in advance for your support as parents and carers in keeping our students at RPS safe.

Yours faithfully



Miss Hannah Semple  
**Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development and Wellbeing)**  
**Designated Safeguarding Lead**