



# Brookfield Community School

## Brookfield Community School

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Headteacher: Mr K Hirst

Executive Headteacher: Mr T Croft

4th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### Harmful Sexualised Behaviour in School-aged Children

In June 2021, Ofsted were asked by the Government to carry out a rapid review on sexual abuse in schools and colleges. 900 students from 32 schools across the country were spoken to by Ofsted inspectors regarding their experiences of harmful sexual behaviour. Full details of this report can be found [here](#).

Whilst Brookfield Community School was not involved in Ofsted's review, their report has done an excellent job in highlighting a national problem. Ofsted's report states that certain forms of harmful sexualised behaviour, including sexting, has become **normalised** in today's society and is experienced by females and males.

Harmful sexualised behaviour has become endemic for a variety of reasons, including:

- The acceptance of generation-long demeaning and mistreating of women, especially through every day misogynistic language.
- Inappropriate, sexualised content readily viewable on social media platforms.
- The development of technology, resulting in most school-aged children having smartphones.
- The widespread accessibility of pornography that is sometimes viewed by children as young as seven years old ([BBFC](#), 2019).

Whilst we can't change society as a whole, we can certainly help change our little bit of it within Brookfield's school community.

At Brookfield Community School we have a zero-tolerance approach to any forms of peer-on-peer abuse, including harmful sexual behaviour, sexualised name calling, misogynistic language or sexual harassment/violence.

The following key actions for the school, parents and students will help address this national issue within Brookfield Community School:

#### Brookfield Community School will:

- Provide staff with additional annual training regarding harmful sexual behaviour.
- Challenge any forms of harmful sexual behaviour.
- Develop its Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 personal development curriculum to include specific lessons on peer-on-peer abuse within its RSHE topics.
- Develop the Life 360 tutor time sessions to ensure all students understand the meaning of consent and the importance of reporting any forms of harmful sexual behaviour.

- Plan specific year group drop-down days (where students are off timetable) to cover age-specific aspects of harmful sexualised behaviour.
- Design and present bespoke assemblies to Year 9, Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13.
- Provide students with a new email address to report any incidents (if they don't feel comfortable approaching a member of staff in person): [safeguarding@brookfieldcs.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@brookfieldcs.org.uk)
- Treat any reports of harmful sexualised behaviour seriously.
- All staff will be role models and set a positive example to our students.

**Families should:**

- Discuss harmful sexualised behaviour at home, including how to keep safe online.
- Challenge any harmful sexualised behaviour at home, including misogynistic language.
- Remind their child about the dangers of taking and sharing nude/semi-nude images.
- Ensure their child is not accessing harmful content online (by checking privacy settings and search history etc).
- Useful tips regarding online safety can be found [here](#).

**Students should:**

- Think mutual respect.
- Report any incidents of peer-on-peer abuse to school and/or parents.
- Never produce or share nude or semi-nude images.
- Understand consent. A useful video clip about consent can be found [here](#).

Thank you in advance for your support in addressing this important societal issue.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Cronin', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr Richard M Cronin  
Deputy Headteacher