



6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

You may be aware of recent developments in the national media, as well as the Government announcements for a major review into sexual abuse in education settings; this is alongside a dedicated helpline to provide support and guidance to adults and children who have been victims of abuse. The main elements of the announcement are as follows:

- **NSPCC helpline:** The new dedicated, confidential helpline will be run by the NSPCC and is available to current or past victims as well as parents, carers or professionals with concerns. The dedicated NSPCC helpline number is 0800 136 663, which became live from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

[Dedicated helpline for victims of sexual abuse in schools | NSPCC](#)



- **Ofsted review:** The Government has also asked Ofsted to undertake an immediate review of safeguarding policies in state and independent schools. The review will look at the extent and the severity of the issue and ensure schools have appropriate processes in place to allow students to report concerns freely, knowing these will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately. It will make sure there is sufficient guidance on how schools should deal with sexual harassment and violence allegations. The review will conclude by the end of May 2021. We will of course review our policies and procedures to ensure they fully comply with their recommendations.

All professionals recognise the complexity of the issues involved and that these reach beyond schools and into aspects of wider society.

The Academy already follows the statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education curriculum introduced last year. This new guidance 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.

The curriculum on relationships and on sex complements, and is supported by, the Academy's wider policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, bullying and safeguarding. The curriculum and wider policies are also part of a broader ethos and approach to developing students socially, morally, spiritually and culturally; and our pastoral care systems.

Schools clearly have a crucial role to play in teaching young people about sexual consent and an equal respect for gender - but schools cannot do this job alone. Parents, Carers and families also have a role and there are clearly issues for us to address in wider society.



We understand that our community may feel worried. Please rest assured, we do have robust systems and processes already in place to keep children and young people safe, and to enable them to report any incident or anything that is worrying them. **If you are in any doubt about our processes for reporting incidents and our approach to handling them, please visit the safeguarding/student care and well-being section on our Academy website:**

[Corby Business Academy - Safeguarding](#)

**These sections contain details of named specialist safeguarding staff you can talk to and will continue to be updated as further guidance emerges.**

If you are unhappy with the way the Academy has handled a reported incident, I would urge you to follow the Trust's formal complaints procedure. The policy is on the Brooke Weston Trust website:

[Brooke Weston Trust Complaints Policy](#)

I am also sharing with you this [resource](#) for parents and carers on on-line safety. The National Sexual Violence Resource Centre (NSVRC) has published [resources](#) for parents and carers in relation to talking about consent, which you may find useful.

I know this could be an extremely worrying time for students, parents and carers. Please be assured we will listen to all our students, review and act upon our policies and procedures and ensure we offer high quality relationships and sex education to all.

Yours sincerely

Mr S. Underwood  
Associate Principal