

May 2021: Update on sexual misconduct in schools

Parents and carers may be aware of the current [national investigation by Ofsted](#) into sexual misconduct within schools, partly sparked by the testimonies given on the ['Everyone's Invited'](#) website. The Ofsted investigation is focusing on how schools deal with pupil complaints about harassment and assault, how they teach relationships and sex education and how well schools are working with local multi-agency safeguarding partners.

Although the investigation will focus on schools where concerns have been highlighted, it is important that **all schools** look at their culture and the systems/ processes they have in place to keep children safe and to enable them to report any incident or anything that is worrying them.

What we are doing:

At Q1E we want to reassure our parents and carers that we are taking action in light of this.

We take a whole-school (and whole-trust) approach to supporting pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school.

This includes:

- our comprehensive child protection and safeguarding procedures;
- our schools' wider policies on behaviour, inclusion, equality and bullying;
- our curriculum on relationships and sex education, which was recently updated;
- our schools' pastoral care systems.

We have recently taken the following additional actions:

- We have reviewed and updated our child protection and safeguarding procedures;
- We have delivered new staff training (April/May 2021) and reminded staff of protocols for dealing with peer-on-peer abuse;
- We are reviewing all our child protection records and cases, and are establishing a working party to look back at any sexual abuse concerns across our trust.

Parents and carers who are worried

- You can talk directly to your school's headteacher, or designated safeguarding lead (named on the front of the [child protection and safeguarding policy](#));
- You can contact the dedicated new NSPCC helpline for children who have experienced sexual harassment or abuse at school, and for adults who need guidance, on [0800 136 663](#);
- You may want to look at these [resources](#) on talking about consent, or this [resource](#) regarding online safety. We can signpost other resources on request – please do talk to us if you have any questions or concerns.