Visitors’ policy

JS visited reception to observe the school’s visitor policy. JS spoke at length to Julia the receptionist on duty that morning. Visitors sign the visitor book and give details of their car registration (if applicable) and who they are visiting. They are issued with visitor badges and the appropriate member of staff contacted to collect them. All visitors are logged on the central system which JS viewed. No person without a DBS check is permitted unsupervised access. Identification is requested which can include driver’s licenses, passports, warrant cards, company identification badges. All visitors are provided with the safeguarding leaflet including parents. In addition, visitors except parents are provided with the pink card.

Contractors are required to sign a log called Safety Rules for Contractors to confirm they have read and understood its contents. A DBS check is carried out for all contractors working unsupervised. The check is logged electronically in the system.

Student Voice

JS met with four year 10 students to discuss their experience of safeguarding at the school. All agreed without hesitation that they felt safe in school. They have no concerns. They felt that the blue fencing enhanced their feeling of physical safety. All spoke enthusiastically about the assemblies they had attended on various issues connected to safeguarding. They were particularly enthused about the presentation given by a former gang member. All recollected assemblies on issues such as how to keep safe on line, consent and drugs. They were all very aware of how to keep themselves safe online. They recognised the importance of privacy settings, how to block other users, the dangers of online grooming and of webcams. Students felt that e-safety in the school was good. Emily and Lily highlighted a drama workshop on abusive relationships. The fact the issue was tackled through a drama workshop seemed to have made the subject more memorable for them. They informed me they had tackled the subject of IS in a social sciences lesson.

All students agreed that any issues they had were dealt with promptly and appropriately by the school. They mentioned Julie Pitkin, Jamie Rigg and Ms Roger as staff members they would approach to discuss concerns. However, Ollie and Adam indicated they would in the first instance speak to their parents and ask their parents to raise issues on their behalf. Lily and Emily were far more comfortable with speaking to staff initially themselves. One of the students had experienced bullying when he was in year 7. He confirmed it had been dealt with well by Miss Prince and the bullying stopped. One student mentioned an incident that had occurred during an external visit to a mock trial. She spoke to the teacher in charge of the trip. The matter was subsequently dealt with by Miss Prince. The student felt the matter had been dealt with and she was satisfied. However, the student expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that she was not advised of the outcome with regard to the sanctions imposed on the other student involved. She had wanted “feedback”. However, she was aware that this was standard practice. The students mentioned that if they had a meeting with Mr Rigg it was communicated in such a way that other students were aware of it. This was something they felt should change. All agreed that staff respond quickly. Emails sent by students at night are answered by 7am the following morning. The students all agreed they like to use email to communicate with staff as it is confidential. They felt they wanted more information on homophobia as they were not really taught about it. Some students felt more information should be provided on mental health issues to raise awareness of this subject. However, they did speak of a discussion group they had attended on this subject conducted by Mr Hall and Mr Fletcher. They also spoke of the importance of teachers that can control situations in the classroom. Mutual respect was considered important by the students.