



Sexism and sexist behaviour

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to you to inform you of some work we have been doing in school around the issue of sexism and sexist behaviour.

As you may well be aware, following the Ofsted review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges in June 2021, sexism has become an increasingly important topic in schools. In working closely with our parent engagement group, the agenda of Equality was discussed within schools: sexism was the main topic that parents felt needed addressing. The feedback was that school and students are great at dealing with other equality issues but the general feeling was that sexism had been left behind and girls were being impacted. The parental engagement offered a number of areas to help support and drive this forward, which are highlighted below.

Mr Pearson, in his role as subject lead for PSHE, has also worked to make sure this issue is highlighted and that we are taking steps to challenge sexist behaviour, misogyny and ensure that students know it is unacceptable in our setting and will be dealt with accordingly. An assembly was delivered to all students in March that began a process of educating students on what constitutes sexism and sexual harassment and why will not be tolerated in our setting or the wider world.

As a result of this, students were invited to vote on the title of a new email address from three choices, that students can use to report sexist behaviour in school, as well as incidents of racism; homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and other offensive behaviours. With 55% of the vote our students chose yourvoicematters@bohuntworthing.com. This email address is being launched this week and we hope this will allow us to get further insight into the scale of incidents facing our school community, and deal with them appropriately.

We are also delivering a PSHE session this week on misogyny and in particular the use of misogynistic language. We are very pleased to say this has been done in collaboration with some of our Y10 students who have contributed extensively to the design and tone of this presentation. This work will continue throughout the rest of the year and beyond.

We are at the start of a journey in our efforts to eradicate this behaviour in our community and look forward to making Bohunt School Worthing a safer environment for all our students.

Yours sincerely

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Subject Lead for PSHE

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Engagement and Transition Lead

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