

Mevagissey Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Many of you will have seen Ofsted has published its review into '[Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges](#)'. The review saw inspectors speak to over 900 children and young people and visit 32 schools across the country. Although not selected to take part in the review, schools across CELT read the findings with interest as we continue to strive to make our schools safe places for all children.

The findings of this national review were upsetting for parents and school staff alike, particularly as it reveals how prevalent sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are for many children and young people. The challenge for schools and wider society is how we respond and work even harder to safeguard children. It is clear that, in working towards this, schools, parents, carers, local authorities, social services and the police will have to collaborate more effectively to tackle the issues raised in the Review.

Safeguarding all children remains our top priority. We would like to assure parents that there are many effective systems and process in place at Mevagissey Primary School and across the Trust. We continue to be proud of the work that safeguarding teams undertake every day. However, we are not complacent and fully accept the challenge presented in Ofsted's national review for schools to '*...act on the assumption that children and young people are experiencing some aspects of online abuse of harassment*', even when we have no information that may be the case. To this end, we will continue to act knowing 'it could happen here'.

Mevagissey Primary School together with all schools across the Trust, will respond to Ofsted's national findings in a collaborative approach to continue to promote a healthy and respectful culture. This will include reviewing all policies relating to safeguarding and shaping new training opportunities for staff. We will also review our systems for reporting incidents and reflect on the effectiveness of our Relationships, Sex and Health and Education (RSHE) curriculum.

We want to reassure you that the school team remains fully committed to supporting children, parents and carers. If you have **any** concerns about your child's experiences online or in school, please contact the school safeguarding team and we will work with you to address these. We would also like to draw to your attention the dedicated NSPCC Helpline. 'Report Abuse in Education' which can be contacted by phone on 0800 136 663 or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk. In every instance, we would encourage you to talk to the school first to make us aware of the issue, to enable us to act swiftly to address concerns.

It is our profound belief that together we can make a difference for our children and young people. Together we must do all we can to ensure that sexual harassment and sexual abuse have no place in our school nor in our society.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Stewart Gynn
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Trust Safeguarding Lead
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