



Letter No: 126/2021

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Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

## Review of sexual harassment and abuse in schools and colleges

You may remember that I wrote to you all a few weeks ago about the issue of sexual harassment and abuse, and the steps that Sandringham and other schools are taking in response to the 'Everyone's Invited' web site and other media formats on this matter.

Yesterday, I had a long conversation on this issue with Dr. Jason Howard, who is a Senior HMI working with Ofsted. The government have asked Ofsted to carry out a review of safeguarding policies in state and independent schools in relation to sexual abuse, and they would like to visit Sandringham next week to talk to staff and students as part of this study.

They are looking at two key areas:

1. Whether schools have appropriate processes in place to allow students to report sexual abuse freely, knowing these will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
2. Establish whether there is sufficient guidance for schools on how they should deal with sexual harassment and violence allegations, and whether they understand the guidance well.

An important part of this review will be to determine if the current inspection framework is strong enough to address concerns and promote the welfare of children.

Following the conversation I said that we would be delighted to take part in this review, which will include a number of schools from across the country. The outcomes of each school visit will be collated to produce a report that will be used to inform further policy making at the DfE and Ofsted.

This visit is not an inspection and there will be no judgements made or report written about Sandringham. However, we will receive valuable feedback on our processes which will help inform any further work that we may need to do in the area of sexual harassment and abuse.



**The visit is scheduled for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.** There will be two visiting HMI who will spend their time talking to staff and students, and considering various policies and materials from the school. The aim is to minimise any impact on the normal operation of the school, so the vast majority of the school population and staff will be unaffected by their visit.

The attached letter from Ofsted outlines more of the detail, provides two links that will be of interest to you and also asks for a response from you if you DO NOT wish to participate in this review. We have constructed a simple Google Form that you can use to reply if you DO NOT wish to participate. The link can be found here <https://forms.gle/NaefQQmARE7jeJ3i8>

This is a really important issue and one that we put considerable effort into covering through the Personal Education curriculum, as well as in our pastoral support systems.

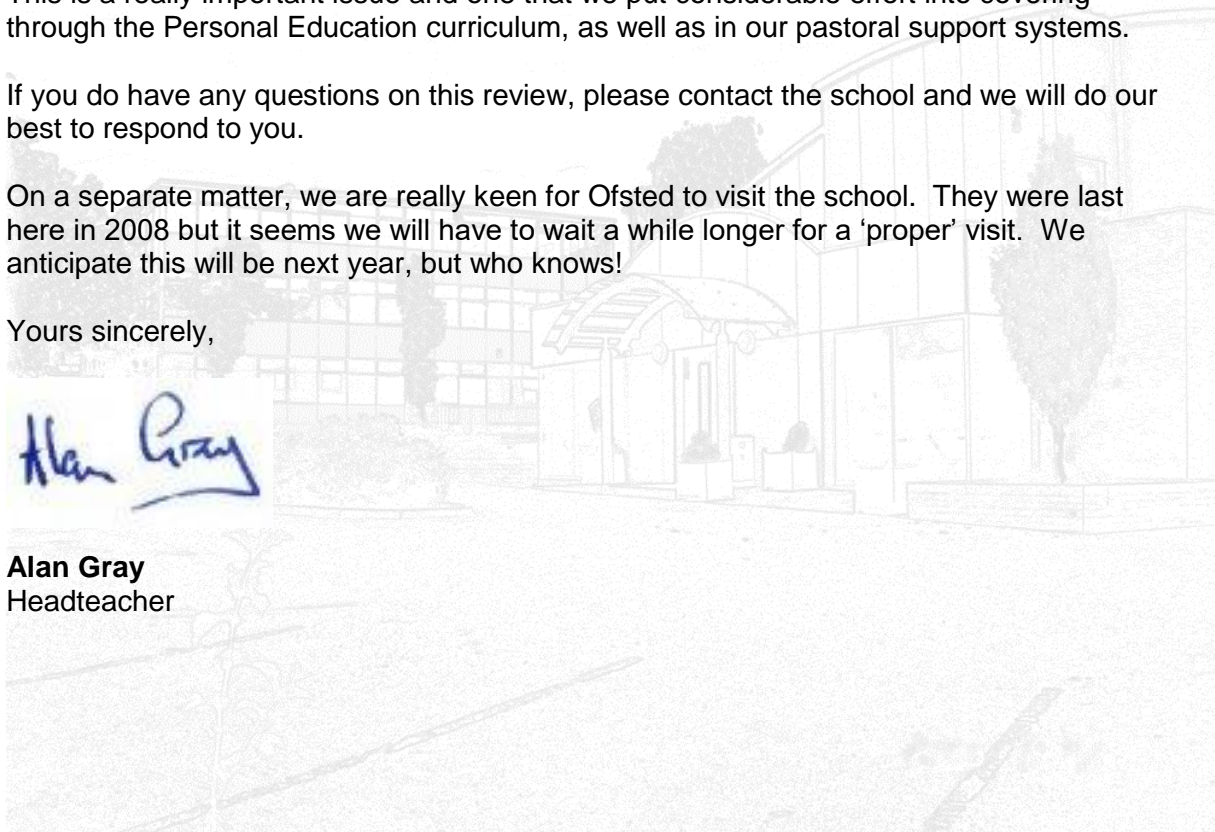
If you do have any questions on this review, please contact the school and we will do our best to respond to you.

On a separate matter, we are really keen for Ofsted to visit the school. They were last here in 2008 but it seems we will have to wait a while longer for a 'proper' visit. We anticipate this will be next year, but who knows!

Yours sincerely,



**Alan Gray**  
Headteacher



Artsmark  
Platinum Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



## Ofsted's review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges

### About the review

The government has asked Ofsted to carry out a review into safeguarding policies in state and independent schools and colleges in relation to sexual abuse. As part of this review, Ofsted will visit a sample of schools and colleges to look at how well safeguarding is working and hear the views of children and young people. The review will not report on individual schools and colleges or cases, but will present a picture of good and poor practice across the country so the government can gain a greater understanding of children's and young people's experiences.

More information about the review can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-review-of-sexual-abuse/ofsted-review-into-sexual-abuse-in-schools-terms-of-reference>

Your child's school/college has agreed to take part in this review.

### What will this mean for my child?

As part of the review, Ofsted will carry out up to four focus groups with a sample of children and young people at your child's school/college. The focus groups will last about 45 minutes and be constructed so that children and young people are interviewed with peers of the same age and gender. Participants will also be selected so that they are in the same bubble to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Inspectors will be required to take a lateral flow test the day before the visit takes place and on each day of the visit, or comply with local testing arrangements where these are different.

Your child may be asked to take part in one of these focus groups.

The focus groups have been designed to ask children and young people about:

- where they feel more and less safe at school or college
- how members of staff at their school would respond to different hypothetical scenarios of potential behaviour that might occur on school grounds
- how well they feel the relationship and sex education curriculum is taught at their school/college

### What will we do with what your child tells us?

- Inspectors will take notes during the discussion. These notes will not include any personal information such as the name of the schools and colleges, children's or young people's names, addresses or any details or information that could identify any of the participants.

- Ofsted may include some of what your child says in the final report along with what other people tell us, without naming them or their school or college. The report will also include the views of school and college leaders, teachers and other practitioners.
- Everything your child says will be kept confidential, except where inspectors are concerned about their immediate safety, or the safety of another person. That is unlikely, but if that is the case, we will inform the school/college in accordance with their safeguarding policy.
- Notes of the focus group discussion will be stored on Ofsted's secure system. Only Ofsted employees who are working on the review will be able to access the information. These notes will only be held until 1 September 2021.

### **Purpose and legal basis for processing personal information**

We wish to use the views provided to us by children for research carried out by Ofsted.

Ofsted has been asked by the Secretary of State for Education to conduct an urgent review of safeguarding policies in state and independent schools and colleges in relation to sexual abuse. This means that processing the views of children and young people, using the safeguards described above, is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest and whilst exercising official authority.

These are in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (articles 9 and 6) and also the Data Protection Act 2018 (schedule 1, part 2(6)). If you wish to find out more about how Ofsted processes personal data please access the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted/about/personal-information-charter>

### **Participating in the review**

If you would prefer for your child **NOT** to take part in Ofsted's review, please can you respond by 9.00 a.m. Tuesday 5th May 2021 using the Google Form found here:

<https://forms.gle/NaefQQmARE7jeJ3i8>

Thank you for your help with this important review.

Alan Gray  
Headteacher