

Headteacher: Ms A. Ward BA (Hons) MA (Ed)

9th January 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

Supporting students' wellbeing

We hope that you and your family had a restful holiday. As we begin the new school term, we'd like to remind you about how we support students' wellbeing at Mulberry School for Girls.

At Mulberry School for Girls we want every student to feel safe so that they can achieve their potential free from harm. If a student is worried about something that is happening either at school or outside of school, we have lots of members of staff who can help. Students can talk to any adult that they trust at the school or any member of our Safeguarding Team. Students can see who these members of staff are by looking at the wellbeing displays that can be found in every area of the school:



Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Ms Pugh and our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Ms Rawat.

Mulberry School for Girls is also part of Operation Encompass, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police. This means that the school is informed before the start of the school day if one of our students has been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic incident that has been reported to the police. Our staff are then able to provide support for the student to meet their needs following the incident.

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Bullying

Bullying or harassment of any kind is unacceptable. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to report it in the knowledge that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. This is a 'telling' school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening to themselves or anyone else, is expected to tell staff or use one of the other channels provided. There is zero tolerance of bullying in the school and any cases reported are dealt with sensitively and promptly.

Bullying involves any repeated action on the part of one or more persons that victims find extremely hurtful. It should be noted that the above definition would, therefore, exclude one off events and could in some cases, perhaps, involve the so-called 'bully' or 'bullies' not realising the significance of their action. Bullying can be physical, verbal, social and cyber (online bullying).

We will sensitively and quickly investigate any report of bullying. This means that we will speak with students and sometimes staff to find out more information. We will contact families and look at ways that the victim can be supported, what we have found in our investigation and how we intend to resolve the issue. This will often involve a formal sanction for the perpetrator/s and a mediation between the perpetrator and the victim – this is only done if both parties feel ready and understand that this will help them moving forwards.

The school organises activities, competitions and assemblies during our annual Anti-Bullying Week to raise awareness of the different types of bullying and to have a shared understanding across the school that we take a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. Anti-bullying and positive relationships feature regularly in assembly and PSHE sessions throughout the year so that students are continually reminded about how to identify and report bullying. Students are taught to be kind, tolerant and supportive of each other and to celebrate each other's differences. Students are taught about the law and bullying and how the law outlines the 9 protected characteristics found in the Equality Act 2010.

How can you report bullying at Mulberry School for Girls?

Students can approach any member of staff to discuss bullying; this could be a Form Tutor or a subject teacher. The best people to approach are the Year Learning Coordinators and Deputy Year Learning Coordinators.

This means a student can report bullying:

To their Year Learning Coordinator or Deputy Year Learning Coordinator

To any member of the Safeguarding or Pastoral Team

To a Form Tutor or any other member of staff that they trust

Anonymously on the school's website

If you or your child do not want to speak directly to a member of staff, then please use the link below. This form is monitored by the Safeguarding Team. The report will be kept confidential whilst we investigate. You can find the form by [clicking here](#), or alternatively under 'Students' and the 'Bullying' tab.

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Mental Health Support

We are excited to now be working with the Place2Be, a national charity supporting schools to improve the confidence and wellbeing of children and young people, as part of our wider strategy for supporting students' mental health. The Place2Be provides emotional and therapeutic support to children and young people, families and staff in more than 450 schools nationwide, giving students a space to express themselves through talking and creative work, and to think about any worries they might have. Place2Be also provides support for parents and staff too. Our school-based Place2Be counsellor, Erinna McCusker, will support students in a number of different ways, facilitating 1:1 interventions as well as group work. When students are referred to these services, families will be contacted in order to provide consent. In addition to this, Erinna will run daily drop-in sessions called a 'Place2Talk', where students can request a short 15 minute session, either by themselves or with a friend. On average, about a third of children and young people who access a 'Place2Talk' in schools, take advantage of this service every year. Children and young people often talk about friendships or any worries they may have.

If you haven't done so already, please return your child's consent form in order for them to access Place2Talk. Additional copies of this form are available from the Main Reception.

We wish you and your family all the very best for the year ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Kirsty Pugh
Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

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