

Our Ref: RWK/JR

09 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today to discuss a worrying trend nationally which is sadly impacting on our local community and ask you to take an active role in preventing further issues.

I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher of this great school and to work in the community as we do. We have had a difficult couple of weeks that have shook us and as a school and community our job is face to this and respond.

As you may be aware, there has been a national increase in the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour taking place in schools and society in general. This information is clear in the recent DfE report on behaviour and suspensions in schools and has been corroborated by information provided by our links with local police. At Ecclesfield School, we take this issue very seriously and have a zero-tolerance policy in place to ensure that all students and staff are protected. We believe that every member of our Ecco Family has a right to learn and teach in an environment free from intimidation, abuse and fear. Staff should feel empowered to teach with passion and expect the highest of behaviour standards in school without fear of repercussions. Our staff and students should demand the highest quality of education and enrichment opportunities to equip them with the keys to life in the modern world.

In addition to this, we invest heavily in the resources the school has from the wonderful drama facilities which enabled 200 of our students to shine in last week's production of Grease, to the sporting and technology facilities across the school. Unfortunately, we have seen a growing number of cases where these facilities have been vandalised, resulting in police referrals and significant bills to parents being issued. Once again, these resources are there for the staff and students in our community so they can fulfil their ambitions and enjoy their time at Ecclesfield – something that very definitely runs through the values of the school.

As a School, we have a clear zero tolerance approach to tackling such incidents and we ask that you as parents support your children in navigating social fallouts and managing their social media platforms responsibly, as this is often the cause of many of the incidents we see in school. We remind all students and parents that we offer an open-door policy, even break and lunch, should students need an emotionally available adult to speak to. Anti-social behaviour is never the answer and as a school and society we need to be clear on this.

Tomorrow we have Alison Cope in our school who will be speaking to 4 of our year groups about her work on Anti-Violence. She is a leading national figure on this and we are lucky to have her in to share her experiences and her wisdom. This work will be followed up in our work in the next half-term.

If you have any questions or concerns about our zero-tolerance policy, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always here to help.

I want it to be clear that as a school we know the challenges we face, and we will not shy away from the work that needs to be done.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and that you have a lovely half-term.

Yours faithfully



R Walkden
Headteacher

