

Our Ref: RWK/JR

21 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you as the Head Teacher of Ecclesfield School following a serious incident that took place in the community last Friday involving two of our KS3 students before the start of the school day. Several of our students witnessed the event and unfortunately were involved in inciting and filming this serious incident.

I have been the proud Head Teacher of this school for many years. Last Friday was an incredibly difficult day for all involved and I personally feel upset at the events that took place.

Our staff were quick to respond and ensure appropriate action was in place in conjunction with the police and the Local Authority. The incident was dealt with on the day based on advice from these partners.

We held a live assembly to reassure children on the day and all students will be spoken to and supported by their form tutors this week.

Police are still working on the incident and as part of their investigation will need to speak formally to students who have been identified as filming and sharing videos of the incident. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the importance of regularly speaking with, and checking their children's online and social media usage to ensure that they are aware of the risks and consequences of filming serious incidents and sharing such footage.

At Ecclesfield School we will not tolerate the encouragement of such serious incidents and the subsequent filming of which fundamentally is also a criminal offence.

In the New Year we will be working with the National Anti-Violence Campaigner, Alison Cope, who will be running sessions in school with all children to ensure they are aware of the risks associated with violent behaviours.

As a key partner in the local community, we are astutely aware of our responsibility to ensure the young people of Ecclesfield School are able to grow up and become positive members of our local community. We will continue to work with The Sheffield Safeguarding Hub and other support services to ensure that our families have the correct support in place as we continue to tackle any concerns around anti-social behaviour both in school and the wider community.

If you have any concerns or would like further support, please do not hesitate in contacting your child's form tutor or pastoral team.

Thank you for your continued support, take care.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Walkden
Headteacher

