



**RATTON SCHOOL  
PARENTAL FORUM MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>Time:</b>	5.30pm
<b>Place:</b>	Room 122

**One agenda item – Anti-Bullying Policy and Child on Child Abuse**

Discussion and explanation of our anti-bullying policy with opportunity for parents/carers to ask questions and discuss. Mr. Brown, as Designated Safeguarding Lead, explained the rationale behind the policy, the definition of bullying and how the policy linked to the behaviour policy.

Questions from forum:

**Q. How easy or difficult is it for students to report bullying?**

Mr. Brown explained that there were many ways to do this. Firstly, via the website on the safeguarding page [Safeguarding | Ratton School](#) there is a button to report sexual harassment and bullying. This has been shared in the last term with students in assemblies. Secondly, all Year Team offices have a small postbox outside where students can post concerns, which are checked regularly. However, both Mr. Brown and Mr. Peevers agreed that students were more likely to report any instances of bullying to a trusted adult – Tutor, Year Leader or Teaching Assistant, for instance, and this is how the majority of reports are made. This is positive in the sense that students feel that they can approach staff to discuss and resolve issues.

**Q. How do the students know about this?**

Mr. Brown has delivered assemblies on these methods of reporting bullying or online abuse to all year groups over the last term. Input in tutoring programme and Ethics lessons.

**Q. Do you know the percentages of students and parents who feel that school is a safe place?**

Yes, we regularly use student voice, and do parental surveys. We also have external scrutiny – governors, local authority safeguarding reviews and Ofsted for example - who focus primarily on what the students are telling them about how safe they feel.

There was also a discussion around the nature of 'zero tolerance' and what is meant by that – it was agreed that this meant that any incidents of racist or homophobic language for example, would be challenged. It was agreed that every situation is different and that would mean that sanctions may be different, but Mr. Brown explained that we also take an educative approach. For example, in response to a comment from the forum, it was explained that all discriminatory language is logged on to the school system and reported each month in a safeguarding report that is given by Mr. Brown to Mr. Peevers. This is also reported to governors and trustees. Additional to appropriate sanctions, each student is picked up for a conversation about the remarks by a senior teacher. The forum also raised issues around the influence and ideas of Andrew Tate on social media and there was discussion around effective ways to approach this from a parental and school perspective, and in terms of building resilience for young people, particularly around the use of social media.

Mr. Brown explained that equalities issues were covered in the Ethics curriculum, and in tutor time and assemblies. Forum closed with parents and carers' comments on the anti-bullying policy, stating that it seemed good enough and straightforward to understand.