



## **Safeguarding update – Sexual Harassment – November 2021**

Here at Woodham Academy, we are committed to keeping our young people safe. In September 2021, the Department for Education published new guidance for schools which focuses on the issue of sexual harassment. It states that schools and colleges should be aware of the importance of taking a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment; it is never acceptable, and it will not be tolerated and it should never be passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys”. It is clear that by dismissing or tolerating such behaviours, we risk normalising them; it can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

Last month saw us team up with Project deSHAME to educate our students around mutual respect. Project deSHAME aims to tackle peer-based online sexual harassment by empowering local communities to work together to increase reporting among young people.

As part of this work, they have created a short video (please click on the link below) to educate parents on the issue and also created a guide for parents to support your child at home.

[Online Sexual Harassment: Advice for Parents and Carers of 13-17 year olds - Childnet](#)