

Statement Regarding Geoffrey Perryman Case

Alongside the Police we welcome the sentence given to Geoffrey Perryman, aged 86, who has been found guilty of sexual assaults on children over 50 years ago while working at our College. As a school we do not condone in any way the behaviours of this individual that led to his prosecution from actions that were undertaken in the 1960s and 1970s.

These events happened well before any of the current staff were employed. The College takes the safeguarding of our students exceptionally seriously and the culture that exists in schools nowadays is very different to that which existed many years ago. Both current staff and students are very much more aware of acceptable behaviours which creates a culture which is far more open with a far wider range of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, for students to speak to should they feel in any way unsafe. Our links to other agencies, such as the Police, are also far stronger and closer than at the time of these events.

During our recent Ofsted inspection inspectors examined very closely all of our safeguarding procedures and were happy with the checks and structures that we have in place to protect students, commenting that,

"The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Senior leaders give safeguarding a high priority and ensure that policy and practice are in line with statutory requirements. Governors, senior leaders and staff are all suitably trained, and so they understand clearly what to do if they have a concern about a pupil's welfare or safety."

In addition they went on to say,

"Pupils know how to stay safe. They understand the risks they face in many different situations because they receive good advice from staff."

Therefore, while the climate within schools is very different to that in the 1960s, as an organisation we are not complacent in our duties and safeguarding of students will always remain our highest priority.

We are therefore very sorry that any person should have to have experienced these events but believe that significant changes have been made to the way that schools, including our own, and other organisations deal with any such allegations which has led to a positive and entirely different culture with priority being given to the safeguarding of all students.

Andrew Davis

Principal

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