From December 2023
JHY/bje

Dear Parents & Carers As Chair of Milton Keynes Secondary Headteacher's Group, Iam writing to you on behalf of all Headteachers of secondary schools in Milton Keynes.

Headteachers and Senior Leaders from across our city work collaboratively to ensure that all schools provide the best possible educational experience for your child. One of our core aims is to ensure that there is consistency in our approach to maintaining high expectations and standards of attendance, behaviour and safeguarding in our schools. To support this aim, senior staff responsible for behaviour and safeguarding, met together for a conference on 10th November 2023. This was an excellent opportunity for leaders to share outstanding practice and to ensure a consistency of approach for all children in Milton Keynes. This means that parents and children from across Milton Keynes can expect a similar experience in relation to how schools deal with attendance, behaviour and safeguarding issues, whatever school they attend. The conference indicated to school leaders that all secondary schools in Milton Keynes, the pupils who attend them and the families that make up the communities, have overwhelmingly more in common than there are differences. It was clear from discussions that all schools across the city have high expectations that children attend every lesson each day, that children wear their uniform with pride and that they respond to these high expectations with active engagement. All schools expressed a worrying concern about the dangers of social media and the impact that this has on children, their families and the good order of schools.

Another very important outcome from the conference was a shared definition of bullying. Headteachers were clear that they wanted to communicate to all stakeholders exactly what constitutes bullying so that everyone had a shared understanding of this across Milton Keynes. The definition agreed is:*"Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face to face or online."*

The definition is supported by the anti-bullying alliance (https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/)

As Headteachers and Senior Leaders, we are committed to dealing robustly with all forms of bullying so that every child can enjoy their education and thrive at school, regardless of which educational community they belong to.

Yours faithfully

J A Hoarty

Jo-Anne Hoarty
Chair of Milton Keynes Secondary Heads Group

Headteacher
School Name