



22 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

IT'S NOT JUST "BANTER" - SUPPORTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER

I am writing further to my letter of last week to ask for your ongoing support and awareness as we approach the half-term break and beyond. The well-being and happiness of all our students is of paramount importance; by working together, we can ensure they feel safe, respected and supported.

The Challenge: Societal Tensions & Social Media

Rising tensions in society affect us all. This is particularly true for young people, who may encounter confusing or misleading language from adults or online influencers.

Often, students repeat phrases they see on their social media feeds – magnified by algorithms or unchallenged by adult supervision – without fully understanding their impact. This can lead to the "normalisation" of comments that are **sexist, racist or homophobic**. When this occurs within our community, it must be addressed and corrected.

What We Are Doing at School

We take a proactive approach to ensuring our school remains an inclusive environment:

- **Preventative Curriculum:** Issues of diversity and equality are integrated into PSHE and across all taught subjects.
- **Values & Habits:** Our core value of *Community* and habit of *Consideration* empower students to advocate for equality.
- **Discussion Forums:** Assembly and tutor time programmes provide safe spaces to discuss what is and is not acceptable.
- **The need for Upstanding:** Through assemblies and advice students are encouraged to support one another and shown the danger of bystanding.
- **Robust Reporting:** We have clear structures for reporting bullying, whether in person or online. Our focus is always on re-education, and we find that re-occurrence is rare.
- **Student Voice:** Beyond formal reporting, we regularly sample student voice and track engagement levels to identify and support any student who may feel disconnected.

What We Ask of You

We are aware that if harmful language becomes "normalised" as "banter" between friends, it may not be easily seen or heard at school or home. Students are often reluctant to report their peers. Therefore, we kindly ask that you:



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- **Monitor Digital Spaces:** Check the language and content in your child's social media and group chats. Be aware that discussions on platforms like Snapchat disappear, making them harder to track.
- **Curate Content:** Discuss how to block or mute accounts, remove themselves from unwanted group invites and reject negative content.
- **Reinforce Values:** Talk openly about language, representation and equality. Remind them that words have a lasting impact.

Key Message

It is not "just banter." Language matters and discrimination or bullying in any format is damaging and unacceptable.

We are living through challenging times, but by focusing on kindness and being proactive about what our young people are consuming online, we can better support them.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping our students navigate these complex issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Barlow', written in a cursive style.

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher