



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

RESTORATIVE APPROACHES – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

We are aware that conflicts can occur in the school setting, between students, which can evoke a strong emotional response within the students themselves, and also their wider family. It's important that this emotional response doesn't escalate matters into incidents of violence either within school or out in the wider community.

You should already be aware that, as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are also active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students; provide additional support, and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to remind our parents/carers and students about the following: -

- **Tell Somebody:** If you have concerns that you, or a member of your family, are being targeted with threatening or abusive language/behaviour, either face to face or via social media, speak with the school to share these concerns at the first opportunity.
- **Help to Resolve Matters:** There are a range of options to support you with this, including speaking with our *School Intervention & Prevention Officer from the Police*, who can listen to your concerns and offer advice on formally reporting the matter, accessing additional support, or arranging a restorative conversation to look at possible resolutions agreeable to both parties, without the need for further police intervention.
- **Taking Matters into Your Own Hands:** We understand that receiving abuse of any kind can be deeply unpleasant/upsetting for many of us, and it is only human to have an emotional response to such things. However, by acting on these emotions you could further escalate issues, and quickly find yourself out of your depth - We want everyone to keep themselves safe and avoid getting a criminal record wherever possible.
- **Social Media:** Don't allow your use of social media to put you at risk of grooming, exploitation, or regret in the future. Use social media positively and avoid being negative about anyone online as comments/actions may be traced back to you and you will be held accountable.

Whilst we hope that everyone enjoys safely socialising with friends and family, we also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from any harm. Additional information on keeping safe can be accessed from the following links: [ONLINE SAFETY | policeandschools.org.uk](https://www.policeandschools.org.uk) | [BULLYING | policeandschools.org.uk](https://www.policeandschools.org.uk) | [RESTORATIVE APPROACHES | policeandschools.org.uk](https://www.policeandschools.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'H. Herrmann'.

Hannah Herrmann
Headteacher
Hodge Hill College

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'R. North'.

Richard North
Chief Superintendent – Birmingham LPA
West Midlands Police