

# SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS WITH THE 'EVERYONE'S INVITED' WEBSITE SEXUAL ABUSE DISCLOSURES

30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

The government aims to mobilise a support helpline and support services for students reporting current and historic sexual abuse in their schools as soon as possible. In the meantime, we have gathered together a few tips and resources that may be helpful.

## Some principles of effective support

- Anyone coming forward with allegations should be taken seriously and treated with sensitivity and respect.
- People who come forward should be empowered to have some control over how the disclosure is dealt with. They should be kept informed about steps taken.
- Not all victims are seeking a Criminal Justice response. Some just want to be heard and reassured that this will not happen again to them or others in the school environment.
- Shame and Blame cultures are damaging. Demonising perpetrators whilst still children can have a profoundly damaging effect. Children need support to change harmful behaviours whilst acknowledging the pain they have caused.
- Families of both victims and perpetrators require support to come to terms with what has happened and to support their own children appropriately.
- The culture amongst pupils needs to be addressed proactively but sensitively to ensure victims are not blamed, ridiculed and re-traumatised.
- It is vital that we choose our words carefully to avoid victim-blaming language.



