



5 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Equally Safe at School: A Whole School Approach to Preventing Gender Based Violence

As part of our commitment to promoting equality and the safety and wellbeing of all at Craigmount High School we are pleased to be working on a new project to help tackle gender-based violence. The project is called *Equally Safe at School* (ESAS) and has been funded by the Scottish Government. It takes a 'whole school approach' to tackling things like sexism, harassment, harmful attitudes and protecting children and young people from all forms of gender-based violence.

The project will take place from 08/10/21 onwards, and will involve several activities:

1. **A self-assessment** with staff and students to find out what the key issues are that they would like to focus on.
2. **An action group** of students and staff who will look at the self-assessment, and make a plan of action, working with the rest of the school to help with various tasks.
3. **Training for all staff** in the school to help them understand more about gender-based violence and learn what they can do to help prevent it, and to equip them to teach young people about gender-based violence as part of the PSE programme.
4. **Enhancement of the curriculum** to find ways of promoting gender equality in all the subject areas, and make sure students feel they can choose whatever subjects they like – there are no 'girls' and 'boys' subjects.
5. **A review of policies** to make sure that gender-based violence and equality are included.

Although gender-based violence is a difficult subject matter, we know that it helps protect young people when they have a safe space to talk about it at school, appropriate to their age and stage. We are committed to ensuring that Craigmount is a place where young people and staff feel confident in challenging sexism, harassment and harmful attitudes, which all helps to build a society where gender-based violence is never tolerated.

You can find more information about ESAS on the website www.equallysafeatschool.org.uk, including information about support services for anyone who has been affected by gender-based violence.

If you have any questions or ideas of ways that parents and carers could be involved, please contact David Sansom using david.sansom@craigmount.edin.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Colin Meikle
Headteacher