



Walderslade Girls' School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

28 November 2022

Please see some information below from the youth team at Medway. As part of their ongoing support for the issues over the past two months, we have agreed to take part in a school assessment.

The school assessment is an exciting opportunity to explore the strengths and challenges young people face within the school community and put a plan in place to support the students. Schools can be protective contexts for the young people who go there. But they can also be harmful places. When young people experience abuse linked to their school, it is critical that the school itself (i.e. its culture and policies) feature in the assessment and intervention. This involves identifying, exploring and addressing the underlying factors that are causing and enabling abuse. Multi-agency partnership help schools to draw on the expertise and experience contained within the wider local community and to work towards the idea of safeguarding being 'everybody's business'. Rather than a referral to social care ending a school's involvement in a safeguarding situation. (Contextual Safeguarding Network:2022)

Over this term and next, students, parents and carers, teachers and the wider community will have the opportunity to participate in a consultation to explore the school community. This will commence on 12th December with Assemblies led by Medway youth Service, explaining the process to the students. A cross section of students will then be identified to attend focus groups and activities with the youth workers to map the strengths and worries they have. The school assessment will also feature within PSHE curriculum, where work will continue to advocate the student voice.

Parents and Carers will also be asked for their views, as a part of the school community, through surveys and face to face meeting. This will be outlined further in the coming weeks for your opportunity to contribute.

We really hope you will take part in this assessment and see it as a positive experience in improving the school for your daughter/ward.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Campbell

