

## **Ofsted's review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges**

### **About the review**

The government has asked Ofsted to carry out a review into safeguarding policies in state and independent schools and colleges in relation to sexual abuse. As part of this review, Ofsted will visit a sample of schools and colleges to look at how well safeguarding is working and hear the views of children and young people. The review will not report on individual schools and colleges or cases, but will present a picture of good and poor practice across the country so the government can gain a greater understanding of children's and young people's experiences.

More information about the review can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-review-of-sexual-abuse/ofsted-review-into-sexual-abuse-in-schools-terms-of-reference>

Your child's school/college has agreed to take part in this review.

### **What will this mean for my child?**

As part of the review, Ofsted will carry out up to four focus groups with a sample of children and young people at your child's school/college. The focus groups will last about 45 minutes and be constructed so that children and young people are interviewed with peers of the same age and gender. Participants will also be selected so that they are in the same bubble to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Inspectors will be required to take a lateral flow test the day before the visit takes place and on each day of the visit, or comply with local testing arrangements where these are different.

Your child may be asked to take part in one of these focus groups.

The focus groups have been designed to ask children and young people about:

- where they feel more and less safe at school or college
- how members of staff at their school would respond to different hypothetical scenarios of potential behaviour that might occur on school grounds
- how well they feel the relationship and sex education curriculum is taught at their school/college

### **What will we do with what your child tells us?**

- Inspectors will take notes during the discussion. These notes will not include any personal information such as the name of the schools and colleges, children's or young people's names, addresses or any details or information that could identify any of the participants.

- Ofsted may include some of what your child says in the final report along with what other people tell us, without naming them or their school or college. The report will also include the views of school and college leaders, teachers and other practitioners.
- Everything your child says will be kept confidential, except where inspectors are concerned about their immediate safety, or the safety of another person. That is unlikely, but if that is the case, we will inform the school/college in accordance with their safeguarding policy.
- Notes of the focus group discussion will be stored on Ofsted's secure system. Only Ofsted employees who are working on the review will be able to access the information. These notes will only be held until 1 September 2021.

## **Purpose and legal basis for processing personal information**

We wish to use the views provided to us by children for research carried out by Ofsted.

Ofsted has been asked by the Secretary of State for Education to conduct an urgent review of safeguarding policies in state and independent schools and colleges in relation to sexual abuse. This means that processing the views of children and young people, using the safeguards described above, is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest and whilst exercising official authority.

These are in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (articles 9 and 6) and also the Data Protection Act 2018 (schedule 1, part 2(6)). If you wish to find out more about how Ofsted processes personal data please access the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted/about/personal-information-charter>

## **Participating in the review**

If you would prefer for your child **NOT** to take part in Ofsted's review, please can you return this form to your child's school. Electronic signatures are fine.

**Name of child:**

**Name of parent/carer:**

**Signature of parent/carer:**

**Date:**

*NB: A school/college can decide whether this form is returned or whether the parent/carer having read the form, informs the school that they would prefer their child **NOT** to take part in Ofsted's review by sending an email or text to the school/college.*