

4th December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to provide you with a new update following the recent events at our school. We can assure you that the school is continuing to operate calmly and, as you may already be aware, the media presence around Fernside Avenue has now ended. We have a peaceful and positive learning environment for children of all ages and we are still receiving a high level of support from our local community. Thank you for that support.

The most recent update from West Yorkshire Police made it absolutely clear that the police, the local authority and the school have all been working together closely for a number of weeks. It is very important to stress that the incidents were dealt with at the time by our school – not at a later date after footage appeared on social media.

We are not able to give details about sanctions involving individual students. This would breach confidentiality. However, with any incident on any level, appropriate steps are always taken in line with the severity of the issue. We do not tolerate violent or unacceptable behaviour in our school.

The police have published information which includes:

- On 7th October, a 15-year-old male suffered a wrist injury during an incident in the playground. This was fully investigated by police at the time. Three youths were interviewed on 14th, 16th and 17th October and there was no further police action.
- On 26th October, the police received a report from the same male that he had been assaulted at school the previous day by a named 16-year-old male. Included in the report was the video evidence which has recently circulated in the media. The suspect was interviewed by police on 6th November. Upon completion of the investigation, it was reviewed by the Youth Offending Team, as all youth crime is, and following their recommendation the suspect was reported for summons. He is currently awaiting a court date. From the start of this investigation, there has been a partnership approach including police, the local authority and the school visiting the family. The incident was swiftly investigated.
- You can read the full statement from West Yorkshire police on their [website](#).

As we are sure you appreciate, the ongoing legal process means we are strictly limited in the information we can provide. However, we fully understand that this has been an unsettling time and we are committed to working with parents and carers across the school.

When we are able to do so, it is our intention to invite you into school if there are any concerns you would like to discuss with the head teacher and senior staff. We will provide further details about this opportunity as soon as possible. In the meantime, thank you for supporting our children and our school community.

Yours sincerely



Trevor Bowen, Head Teacher
Gill Goodswen, Chair of Governors

Growing together – Achieving together

