



**Carly Speechley, Executive Director
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

To: Penistone Grammar School
Parents/Carers

My Ref: CS/EMSO-correspondence
Date: 30 April 2024
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Dear Parents/Carers

Over the last week, we've seen a rise in posts and comments on social media targeting Penistone Grammar School and its staff. These posts and comments include sharing of school communication, personal written attacks on staff members and generalised derogatory comments about the school.

Penistone Grammar School is a Barnsley Council maintained school and we have a duty to protect and support our young people, as well as school staff, parents and carers.

People are free to express their opinion and it's okay for people not to like a service or to disagree with decisions, and they are free to communicate this.

What is not acceptable is content that is defamatory, slanderous, discriminatory, inciting or intimidatory behaviour, or is classed as misinformation (false, misleading or out-of-context material regardless of the motivation behind it) or disinformation (a deliberate attempt to mislead using material that the deceiver knows is untrue, designed to be widely shared).

We have a zero-tolerance approach toward any aggressive behaviours and inappropriate, offensive and derogatory comments towards employees and about them. This includes considering legal action and police involvement against anyone who engages in this.

If you're not happy with any part of your child's schooling, please talk to the school. It's the best way work through any problems with the aim of finding a way forward together.

All concerns and complaints are taken extremely seriously, and the school has a dedicated [complaints procedure](#) on their website. You can also email complaints@penistone-gs.uk, or contact the school to speak with the Governance and Compliance Officer who oversees complaints.

Yours faithfully

Carly Speechley
Executive Director – Children's Services