

14 October 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I'm writing to inform you of an incident that occurred this morning in the St Mary's Church Yard on Fratton Road, opposite the school. A member of the public, unknown to the school, acted inappropriately which was witnessed by a small number of pupils. As soon as we became aware of this matter, we took immediate action, alerting the police and conducting welfare checks on the pupils involved. We have also informed and spoken with their families.

We are taking the matter seriously and are continuing to work closely with the police and relevant authorities to assist in their enquiries. As part of this, the police have shared the appeal line and we encourage anyone who witnessed the incident or has relevant information to contact them on 101, reference 0771141024.

Please rest assured that the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils and staff is our number one priority. As such, we will be increasing staff presence around the churchyard this week and providing pastoral support in school. If your child has any questions, they can speak to Kelly Rowe, Designated Safeguarding Lead, who has been signposted to all pupils.

If you have any questions yourself, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly or with your usual academy contact lead.

We will continue to support any pupils who may need it. Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Smith  
Executive Principal  
The Portsmouth Academy