

# Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

We are receiving a significant number of calls and emails today regarding the recent social media 'school wars'. Levels of anxiety appear to have been heightened by articles in the national press. We have been liaising with other headteachers in the borough and with the police, who have been visibly present after school this week.

This morning, we shared advice and information with all pupils about where to seek help if they are feeling scared or anxious, as well as practical guidance about staying safe in the community. We also encouraged them to speak to us today if they are worried about travelling home this evening. We have made it clear that there will be substantial sanctions for any pupils involved in any disturbance or harm, including those who act as bystanders. The police will, of course, pursue criminal charges against anyone seriously involved.

It is important that we remain calm and sensible as a community and ensure that our response is proportionate and based on the information we currently have. At this stage, there will be **no changes to the school day**, and we urge you to remain calm, ensure you know where your children are at the end of school, and encourage them to go straight home. We will remind pupils again before dismissal not to go to the Green, for example. While there is no intelligence suggesting anything will happen there, it would be prudent to avoid open spaces in case groups decide to congregate.

Please do reach out if you feel you need any further support – the best method today is to email [safeguarding@wansteadhigh.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@wansteadhigh.co.uk) as reception do not have the capacity to answer multiple calls. We will, of course, adapt our processes if we receive any updates from the police. I know as a parent these things can be worrying but please trust that we are assessing risk and making sensible and proportionate decisions based on interaction with services and professionals that know the borough and community.

Yours faithfully

Emma Hillman  
Headteacher