

3 July 2020

Governors' Investigation Committee – Statement from the Chair

At The Grammar School at Leeds (GSAL) we have a zero tolerance policy for any kind of discrimination or bullying. Through education and by example, we foster a culture where pupils understand that any such behaviour is cruel and totally unacceptable.

We are therefore deeply concerned that some former pupils have alleged a historic school culture that tolerated racial or other discrimination. It is a matter of deep regret to us that any of our students feel we let them down in this regard.

Racism is a poison which has no place in the school environment or in society as a whole and we take all such allegations seriously.

We have appointed a Governors' Investigation Committee to conduct a formal enquiry and report impartially and objectively into the matters raised. Whilst it will be a Governing Body committee there will be independent representation. We fully recognise that this is a complex and sensitive issue, and we are also seeking the advice of others, who have additional insight, skills and experience in advising on race equity matters to support the committee.

Committee members will be advised by CMS Cameron McKenna Olswang LLP. The committee secretary will be the clerk to the governors at GSAL.

The committee will endeavour to report its findings to the Governing Body by the end of August, to allow us to develop an action plan before the start of the new school year based on the recommendations. However, the committee will decide whether this timescale is achievable and will take whatever time is necessary to conduct a thorough investigation.

As a school we pledge to cooperate fully with the investigation. We will learn from and act upon its findings. We are committed to tackling this issue, keeping our school and alumni communities fully informed.

Angus Martin

Chair of the Governing Body

