



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



4 October 2022



Dear Families

Ref: Merseyside Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme (MVP)

I write to make you aware of the Merseyside Violence Prevention Partnership's (MVRP) Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme (MVP) we deliver here at Abbot's Lea School. We are proud to have been the first special school to join this programme and we remain, to-date, the only special school whose students are trained as Mentors.

What is MVP?

MVP is a peer-to-peer education programme that teaches young people to explore and safely challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence, bullying and other forms of abuse. It also builds resilience and promotes positive mental health in young people.



How does MVP work for our students?

Through a series of sessions, students will explore early intervention and prevention of bullying, harassment and risky behaviours. In turn, this will empower them to identify and communicate concerns with peers and school staff, as well as you as their families.

Students in Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 will be given an opportunity to apply to be trained to become MVP mentors.

After attending a two-day training session throughout the school year, they will deliver five lessons to other students in our Secondary Department.. These students will be known as MVP Mentees.

What are the benefits of MVP?

Schools throughout Merseyside that have embraced MVP have seen increased confidence in students and their ability to challenge situations early to prevent them from escalating. It also gives young people an opportunity to discuss real issues pertinent to them.

Students involved in the project will explore issues that we know matter to young people: online abuse, suicide and racism, and many others.

As we know, young people already do receive guidance and advice from adults and people in authority – including families and school staff – but we have learnt that any such learning is most impactful when it comes from their peers.

You can learn more about MVP and how it works by visiting the [website](https://educationmvp.co.uk/):

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I know you will join me in supporting our students' education in this important area of development of life skills and cheer them on as they gain knowledge, confidence and a sense of self-determination and self-advocacy.

If your child joins the programme and you have any questions, feedback or concerns, please contact me and I will direct your enquiry to the relevant staff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Hildrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher