



St Peter's Church of England (Aided) Primary School
Child on Child Abuse Statement



January 2024

1.1 Child on Child Abuse

1. At our school we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other pupils.
2. We recognise that some pupils will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's behaviour policy or anti-bullying policy in the first instance.
3. However, we recognise that some allegations may be of such a serious nature that they may raise safeguarding concerns.
4. **All staff** should recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. All our staff should follow our normal safeguarding procedures with regard to child on child abuse.
5. We recognise the importance of an ambitious broad and balanced curriculum which develops students understanding of consent, acceptable behaviour, keeping themselves safe and healthy relationships.
6. We will ensure that, in our school or college, our policy will include procedures to minimise the risk of child on child abuse.
7. How allegations of child on child abuse will be recorded, investigated and dealt with;
8. Clear processes as to how victims, perpetrators and any other child affected by child on child abuse will be supported.
9. A clear statement that abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".
10. Recognition of the gendered nature of child on child abuse (i.e. that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys' perpetrators), but that all child on child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.
11. The different forms child on child abuse can take, such as: bullying (including cyberbullying).
12. Physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm.
13. Sexual violence and sexual harassment. Part five of this guidance sets out how schools and colleges should respond to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment.
14. Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.
15. Sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery): The Department for Education provides Searching Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools. The



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UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) Education Group has published [Guidance Sexting in Schools & Colleges](#) on Responding to Sexting Incidents.

16. Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.
17. If Child on Child abuse is suspected staff should follow section 8.7 of the West Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures - [Children who Harm Other Children](#).

1.2 Preventing Child on Child Abuse

1. As a school we will minimise the risk of allegations against other pupils by:
2. Providing a developmentally appropriate education syllabus which develops pupils understanding of consent, acceptable behaviour, keeping themselves safe and healthy relationships.
3. Having systems in place for any pupil to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued.
4. Delivering targeted work on assertiveness and keeping safe to those children identified as being at risk.
5. Developing robust risk assessments and providing targeted work for pupils identified as being a potential risk to other pupils.
6. Providing clarity on how allegations of child on child abuse will be recorded, investigated and dealt with.
7. Having clear processes as to how victims, perpetrators and any other child affected by child on child abuse will be supported.
8. Providing a clear statement that abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".
9. Recognising the gendered nature of child on child abuse (i.e. that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys' perpetrators), but that all child on child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

1.3 Allegations against other pupils which are safeguarding issues

1. Occasionally, allegations may be made against a pupil by other pupils in the school which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.
2. Professionals must decide in the circumstances of each case whether or not behaviour directed at another child should be categorised as abusive or not.



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Examples of safeguarding issues against a student could include:

Physical abuse:

- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to use drugs or alcohol

Emotional abuse:

- blackmail or extortion
- threats and intimidation (including racist or homophobic/religious remarks, cyber-bullying)
- isolating an individual from social activities
- exploiting any situation which may compel another student to do or not do something against their wishes, for example, sexting

Sexual abuse:

- indecent exposure, any form of sexual assault, or encouraging others to engage in such activity
- forcing others to watch pornography or taking part in 'sexting'

Sexual Exploitation:

- encouraging other children to engage in inappropriate sexual behaviour
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts

1.4 Procedure

1. If there is a safeguarding concern, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be informed.
2. A factual record should be made of the allegation, but no attempt at that stage should be made to investigate the circumstances (though further discussion with the alleged victim/perpetrator may be required by the school if further assessment required prior to safeguarding decision).
3. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should contact the MASH to discuss the case where appropriate.
4. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a referral when appropriate.
5. If the allegation indicates that a potential criminal offence has taken place, the MASH will consult with the police.
6. Parents of both the perpetrator and the alleged victim should be informed and kept updated on the progress of the referral, unless to do so would place the alleged victim at risk, and/or jeopardise a police investigation. If unsure, advice should be sought from the MASH.
7. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will make a record of the concern and a copy will be kept on both pupils' files.
8. Where neither Children's Social Care nor the police progress an investigation, a thorough investigation should take place using the school's normal disciplinary procedures.



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9. In situations where the school considers a safeguarding concern remains present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative plan. The plan should be monitored, and a date set for a follow up review with everyone concerned. The plan should reflect both the physical and emotional safety of all pupils concerned.

St Peters - Policy Review

By: Head Teacher with Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Period: 1 Year

Last Approved: January 2024

Next Review: January 2025