

Forest Academy and Elveden C of E Primary Academy



Peer on Peer (aka child on child abuse) Abuse Policy

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Peer on Peer Abuse (aka child on child abuse)

Managing allegations against other children

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 children.

We recognise that some children will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's behaviour policy.

Definition by 'Keeping children safe in Education' Oct 2019

Peer on peer abuse . **All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children** (often referred to as peer on peer abuse). This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- **bullying** (including cyberbullying);
- **physical abuse** such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- **sexual violence**, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; For further information about sexual violence see Annex A.
- **sexual harassment**, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- **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;
- **sexting** (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
- **initiation/hazing** type violence and rituals.

Prevention

As a school we will minimise the risk of allegations against other children by:-

- ❖ Providing a developmentally appropriate PSHE syllabus which develops children's understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe
- ❖ Having systems in place for any child to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued
- ❖ Delivering targeted work on assertiveness and keeping safe to those children identified as being at risk
- ❖ Developing robust risk assessments & providing targeted work for children identified as being a potential risk to other children.

Allegations against other children which are safeguarding issues

Occasionally, allegations may be made against children by others 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. It is likely that, to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a child, some of the following features will be found.

If the allegation:-

- Is made against an older child and refers to their behaviour towards a younger child or a more vulnerable child
- Is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- Raises risk factors for other children in the school
- Indicates that other children may have been affected by this child
- Indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this child

Procedure:-

- When an allegation is made by a child against another child, members of staff should consider whether the complaint raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be informed.
- A factual record should be made of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances.
- The DSL should contact the professional help line to get further guidance. The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a referral where appropriate.
- If the allegation indicates that a potential criminal offence has taken place, the DSL will refer the case to the multi-agency safeguarding team where the police will become involved.
- Parents, of both the child being complained about and the alleged victim, should be informed and kept updated on the progress of the referral.
- The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both children.
- It may be appropriate to exclude the child being complained about for a period of time according to the school's behaviour policy and procedures.
- Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual disciplinary procedures.
- In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment (Difficult and Dangerous Behaviours) should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan. The risk assessment will be shared with all staff and parents and discussed with the child in an age appropriate way.
- The plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.

