

Policy Name – Child On Child Abuse

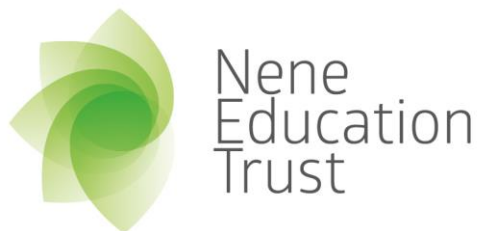
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Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1 Aims..... | 4 |
| 2 Definitions..... | 4 |
| 3 Purpose | 5 |
| 4 Legislation and relevant documentation | 5 |
| 5 Scope | 6 |
| 6 Roles and Responsibilities | 6 |
| 7 Training | 8 |
| 8 Procedures to minimise child on child abuse | 8 |
| 9 Responding to concerns or disclosures of child on child abuse | 9 |
| 10 Local Arrangements and Making Referrals | 11 |
| 11 Record-keeping | 11 |
| 12 Parent/s and Carer/s..... | 11 |
| Appendix A: Further Resources | 12 |

1 Aims

1.1 Woodford CE Primary School and Nursery is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We recognise that children may face different forms of abuse and we work together to protect children from harm. As well as being abused by adults, children can be abused by other young people. This is known 'child on child abuse'. The school is committed to preventing child on child abuse and will protect children that may be suffering, or at risk of suffering harm perpetrated by another child. We recognise that child on child abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up". We maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' and act in the best interests of the child at all times.

2 Definitions

2.1 The following terms and associated definitions will be used throughout this policy.

- **'Staff' or 'members of staff'** refers to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff, governors, volunteers and trustees working in or on behalf of the school.
- **Child/children** refers to any young person under the age of 18
- **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** is defined as; protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.¹
- **child on child abuse** refers to any scenario where a student abuses another student. It can take place online or offline. For the purposes of this policy, a child is anyone under the age of 18. Whilst the focus of the advice is on protecting and supporting children, schools and colleges should of course protect any adult students and engage with adult social care, support services and the police as required. The children involved do not have to be the same age and the perpetrator may be older or younger than the victim. child on child abuse could include (but is not limited to);
 - bullying (including cyberbullying);
 - prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying

¹ Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021)



- abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (also known as teenage relationship abuse)
- 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;
- 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

(Part five of KCSIE 2023 sets out how schools and colleges should respond to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment)

- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- 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;
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

3 Purpose

3.1 This policy has been written to

- ensure that the school follows all statutory guidance and advice relating to child on child abuse;
- provide stakeholders with information about how Woodford CE Primary School and Nursery works to prevent child on child abuse;
- provide stakeholders with information about how Woodford CE Primary School and Nursery responds to concerns, disclosures and/or allegations relating to child on child abuse; and to
- provide stakeholders with information about how Woodford CE Primary School and Nursery continues to support victims of child on child abuse following the conclusion of an investigation.

4 Legislation and relevant documentation

4.1 This policy adheres to and must be read alongside the school Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

4.2 All staff and stakeholders should also refer to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in relation to any safeguarding matters or concerns.

4.3 This policy is part of a suite of school policies relating to safeguarding and child protection. For further details, please see:
Safeguarding and child protection policy, Relationship Policy, RSE Policy & the Anti-Bullying Policy found on the NET website

4.4 This policy adheres to all statutory guidance and legislation, including (but not limited to):

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (2021)
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Data Protection Act (2018)
- General Data Protection Regulations (2018)
- [PACE Code C 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pace-code-c-2019)

4.5 Rather than duplicating content from Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) in this policy, it should be understood that Woodford CE Primary School and Nursery will always refer to this document as the benchmark for all safeguarding practice.

5 Scope

5.1 This policy applies to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff, governors, volunteers and trustees working in or on behalf of Woodford CE Primary School and Nursery. All references in this document to 'staff' or 'members of staff' should be interpreted as relating to the aforementioned unless otherwise stated.

6 Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 Role of the Governors/Proprietors

6.1.1 The governors/proprietors will:

- Uphold all responsibilities under the school Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) and any other relevant statutory guidance.
- Ensure that the school's safeguarding and child protection policy includes all relevant information as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022).
- Ensure that policies (including this policy), procedures and training in the school are effective and comply with the law at all times.

6.2 Role of the Headteacher/Principal

6.2.1 The Headteacher/Principal will:

- Uphold all responsibilities under the school safeguarding and child protection policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) and any other relevant safeguarding statutory guidance and legislation.
- ensure that this policy and all other relevant policies are followed by all staff.
- liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead about ongoing enquiries, particularly those under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
- Ensure that the school curriculum includes education opportunities to minimise incidents of child on child abuse.
- Ensure that the school site promotes positive behaviour and minimises the opportunity for child on child abuse.
- Safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties (in line with The Teachers' Standards 2012).

6.3 Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

6.3.1 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will:

- Uphold all responsibilities under the school Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) and any other relevant safeguarding statutory guidance and legislation.
- Undertake any training required to uphold their post and the responsibilities outlined in this policy.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff in relation to child on child abuse.
- Manage disclosures of and concerns about child on child abuse.
- Make referrals to Children's Services and the police as appropriate.
- Ensure that this policy is known, understood and used appropriately by all staff.
- Safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties (in line with The Teachers' Standards 2012).

6.4 Role of all staff

6.4.1 All staff will:

- Uphold all responsibilities under the school safeguarding and child protection policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) and any other relevant safeguarding statutory guidance and legislation.
- Make referrals to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in cases where they suspect cases of child on child abuse or become aware of cases of child on child abuse.
- Be made aware that children can abuse other children and the forms that this abuse could take.
- Be clear as to the school policy and procedures on child on child abuse.
- Be made aware that abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".

- Report any concerns relating to child on child abuse to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.
- Receive training in how to respond appropriately to incidents of 'youth produced sexual imagery' formally known as 'sexting' Where incidents involve sexual imagery or indecent images of children, members of staff will not view, download, print or share images. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should be made aware of the incident immediately.²

7 Training

- 7.1 The school will ensure that all staff have been trained to recognise and respond to child on child abuse.
- 7.2 School-specific information about training is shared with staff annually to all staff and staff also receive ongoing support and training opportunities throughout the year.
- 7.3 We recognise the gendered nature of child on child abuse. However, all staff will be trained to understand that all child on child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously

8 Procedures to minimise child on child abuse

- 8.1 The school have a responsibility to minimise opportunities for child on child abuse. We do this by
- As a school we have a range of school-specific measures such as Worry Forms, online Incident Forms, and bi-weekly DSL meetings to monitor patterns of behaviour recorded on My Concern. We promote a culture of early identification of concerning behaviour and refer to the relevant agencies when required.
- 8.2 We recognise that some children may be more vulnerable to child on child abuse than others. For example, children who have already experienced abuse, those that have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), children living in care and children who are LGBTQ+ and/or have other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 may be more likely to face child on child abuse than other children. We work to protect children with additional vulnerabilities by
- We protect children with additional vulnerabilities through ongoing access to our family support worker / SENCo, plus we have a culture that promotes children to share their worries
 - We address child on child abuse through our curriculum, in line with **Relationships Education, Sex and Relationships Education and Health Education**. The curriculum covers a wide range of appropriate and timely issues e.g. consent, healthy relationships

² For further guidance, see '[Sexting: How to respond to an incident](#)', UKCIS.

8 Responding to concerns or disclosures of child on child abuse

9.1 The school takes child on child abuse seriously and will respond to all concerns or disclosures of child on child abuse immediately.

9.2 If a member of staff has a concern about child on child abuse, or if a child discloses child on child abuse to them, they will refer this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately, in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

9.3 Upon receiving a concern, report or disclosure of abuse, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide what further action is necessary. This will vary depending on the type of child on child abuse and the severity of the incident/s disclosed. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will take contextual factors into account when managing the report.

9.4 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will always consider the following;

- the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed. The victims will be given as much control as is reasonably possible over decisions regarding how any investigation will be progressed and any support that they will be offered it is important to explain that the law is in place to protect children.
- the nature of the alleged incident(s), including: the level of coercion or threat, whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour;
- both the chronological and developmental ages of the children involved;
- any power imbalance between the children, including consideration of the age of children and whether children have special educational needs or disabilities;
- the impact on the victim;
- if the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse; and
- if there are ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students or school or college staff.

9.5 Depending on the nature of the incident/s, the Designated Safeguarding Lead may

- Seek further information from those involved and witnesses.
- Undertake a risk assessment to ascertain steps necessary to safeguard the victim, alleged perpetrator, adults and other children.
- Decide to manage the concern internally.
- Organise a meeting with relevant staff and agencies to assess risk and agree a safety plan.
- Refer the victim and/or the perpetrator to local services for Early Help.
- Refer the case to Children's Services via a MASH referral.
- Liaise with social workers working with children involved (if applicable).
- Make a referral to the police.

9.6 Supporting the victim

- 9.6.1 The school recognises that child on child abuse has a significant impact on young people and victims are likely to need ongoing support.
- 9.6.2 Appropriate support will be put in place for victims of child on child abuse whilst investigation is taking place and following the initial response. Support will continue for as long as it is needed and will be reviewed regularly to ensure the victim is receiving appropriate care.
- 9.6.3 The school will do everything we can to maintain the victim's normal routine.
- 9.6.4 The school will do everything we can to protect the victim from further bullying and harassment as a result of their disclosure.
- 9.6.5 The needs and wishes of the victim should be paramount. We must consider the age and the developmental stage of the victim, the nature of the allegation(s) and the potential risk of further abuse. Also the victim should never be made to feel they are the problem for making a report or made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- 9.6.6 If a victim of child on child abuse moves to a new setting, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will share the necessary information to ensure that support for the child continues.

9.7 Supporting the alleged perpetrator

- 9.7.1 The school has a responsibility to ensure that an alleged perpetrator continues to receive a suitable education and will consider a range of options in continuing educational provision. Options may include
 - Working in smaller groups
 - Working in isolation
 - Home learning
 - 9.7.2 We recognise that children who perpetrate child on child abuse may be being abused themselves. The school will continue to safeguard the alleged perpetrator and provide them with support.
 - 9.7.3 A plan to reduce the risk posed by the alleged perpetrator will be put in place as part of the risk assessment made following the alleged abuse.
 - 9.7.4 The school will understand the importance of intra familiar harm and the support for siblings following incidents of child on child abuse.
 - 9.7.5 If the alleged perpetrator moves to another setting, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will share information as necessary to safeguard the individual and other child at the new setting.
- 9.8 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will take advice from children's social care, specialist services and the police as necessary.
- 9.9 The school may choose to impose a sanction or punishment on the alleged perpetrator following an incident of peer on peer abuse. In this case, we will



follow the school Relationship Policy in determining the level and severity of sanction.

9.10 Where a child is cautioned or receives a conviction related to an incident of child on child abuse, the school will refer to KCSIE Part 5 for guidance

10 Local Arrangements and Making Referrals

10.1 The school adheres to local safeguarding arrangements, as outlined by the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

10.2 For further details of how the school works with partner agencies in responding to safeguarding incidents (including incidents of child on child abuse), please see the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

11 Record-keeping

11.1 All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, will be recorded in writing. This will also help if/when responding to any complaints about the way a case has been handled by the school. Information will be kept confidential and stored securely. Records will include:

- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved, and
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.

All concerns will be reported to Trust Wide DSL half termly and this will be shared with Local Committees.

11.2 Members of staff will follow the procedures for recording a disclosure outlined in the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

12 Parent/s and Carer/s

12.1 Parent/s and carer/s will be informed of incidents unless sharing information puts a child at greater risk of harm.

12.2 If the child wishes to withhold information from their parent/s or carer/s, competency will be assessed using the Gillick competency and Fraser guidelines (where applicable).³

12.3 Children will always be encouraged to speak to parent/s or carer/s about child on child abuse.

³ For more information about Gillick competency and Fraser guidelines, see <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/gillick-competence-fraser-guidelines>



Appendix A: Further Resources

The school use a range of resources (in addition to those referenced in the main body of the policy) to support in minimising child on child abuse, training staff and responding to concerns or disclosures. This appendix details this additional documentation.

Harmful sexual behaviour between children and young people, NICE

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng55>

NSPCC Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1657/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework.pdf>

Preventing and Tackling Bullying Advice (2017), HM Government

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/623895/Preventing_and_tackling_bullying_advice.pdf

What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (2015), HM Government

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf

Sexting: How to respond to an incident. An overview for all teaching and non-teaching staff in schools and colleges, UKCCIS

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/647389/Overview_of_Sexting_Guidance.pdf

Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people UKCIS

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759007/6_2939_SP_NCA_Sexting_In_Schools_FINAL_Update_Jan17.pdf

School Exclusion Statutory Guidance (including changes to the exclusion process during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

[School suspensions and permanent exclusions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-suspensions-and-permanent-exclusions)

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Procedures, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

http://northamptonshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_sexually_harm_behav.html

Behaviour and discipline in schools (2016), Department for Education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools>