

Child on child abuse policy

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Review date: Annual (Or following a specific significant incident)

This policy is to read in conjunction with the Urmston Grammar safeguarding policy

For the purpose of this policy, the term 'children' includes everyone under the age of 18 which is in line with guidance provided in the most recent update of KCSiE (Jan 2021). However, where students are older than 18 safeguarding information, advice and guidance will continue to be shared with students and their families. The same processes will be followed for recording incidences and taking action where required. The only difference would be that where we needed to link with social services it would be through adult social care and not children's social care.

Aim

To ensure a clear and robust procedure for Urmston Grammar colleagues to follow when dealing with child-on-child abuse.

To provide information and guidance around the safeguarding principles of child-on-child abuse.

Introduction

Urmston Grammar recognises that children are capable of inflicting abuse on their peers. Such abuse will never be accepted as 'part of the growing up process' or as a joke or 'banter'.

Sexual violence and harassment can occur between children of any age and sex. For students subject to such abuse it can be stressful and distressing experience and we will always work with sensitivity and care to best support and protect them.

In the majority of circumstances, incidents of students hurting other students will be dealt with in line with the schools 'rewards and behaviour' policy, but this policy, alongside the safeguarding policy will supersede that in regard to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This may include, but is not limited to the following:

- a serious and potentially criminal offence;
- a situation that may put other students in the school at risk;
- incidents that are violent;
- situations where students are compelled to use drugs, alcohol or any illegal substances;

- bullying (Including cyberbullying);
- allegations of physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise inflicting physical harm;
- any sexual violence such as rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault;
- forms of sexual harassment, including sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment. These may be standalone incidents, or may be part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- situations involving upskirting. The voyeurism (offences) act is commonly referred to as the upskirting act and has been in force since April 2019. Upskirting is the act of taking a picture under a persons clothing (Not limited to skirts) with the intention of viewing genitals or buttocks (in the absence or presence of underwear) to gain sexual gratification or for the perpetrator to cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. **This is a criminal offence and can affect males and females;**
- incidents that involve sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery);
- situations involving hazing/initiation acts that can include violent rituals;
- abuse within intimate partner relationships;

Wherever it is possible to do so, we will engage with parents/carers to ensure that all relevant information is shared. Judgements will be made in each individual circumstance and where there is a risk that this may be unsafe, we may elect to not share information with parents/carers.

Managing allegations

If a student makes an allegation against another student;

- the DSL, Deputy DSL (or colleagues named in the safeguarding policy in their absence) must be informed immediately;
- the reporting member of staff should not investigate the matter themselves;
- the DSL will contact the police if the allegation involves a potential criminal offence;
- the DSL will make a local authority social care team referral if the allegation involves a potential criminal offence;
- the DSL will discuss a support plan and put one in place for all children involved (Both the victim and alleged perpetrator);
- the DSL will ensure a named person is provided for all involved to speak to if needed;
- the DSL will also consider the wider need for support for friends or witnesses to incidents as appropriate.

Minimising the risk of child on child abuse;

- we will challenge any form of derogatory or sexualised language and behaviour;
- we will ensure our curriculum helps to educate our students about consent, appropriate behaviour and online safety;
- students will be aware that they can talk to any member of staff and may use the confide system to make a disclosure. They will be aware that this information may need to be passed on and confidentiality cannot be given;

- appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to monitor issues online;
- colleagues will be trained to understand that a student harming a peer can be a sign that they may be being abused themselves. This would then be managed in the context of this and the wider safeguarding policy;
- the school follows the searching screening and confiscation advice for schools that the DFE provides and all staff are aware of the Child Exploitation online protection centre (CEOP).

Urmston Grammar will adhere to the advice as outlined in 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges – Advice for governing bodies, proprietors, headteachers, principals, Senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads – May 2018