

Child-on-Child Abuse Policy for Pupils

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At Wollaston School we want to make sure that you feel safe and secure both in and out of school. This policy for our pupils looks at child-on-child abuse, what you can do when you feel you or someone else is being abused, and what we as a school will do when we are aware of instances of abuse.

1) What is child-on-child abuse?

“Child-on-child abuse is behaviour by an individual or group, intending to physically, sexually or emotionally harm others. It can happen to children of a similar age or stage of development and can be harmful to the children who display it as well as those who experience it”. (KCSIE 2023)

Emotional bullying is repeatedly and purposefully hurting someone’s feelings, leaving them out or bossing them about.

Physical bullying is hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)

Verbal bullying is teasing someone, calling them names or using rude hand signs. People can also use verbal bullying to be racist or homophobic.

Prejudice based or discriminatory bullying includes racist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic bullying.

- **Racist:** where someone targets a victim or makes comments because of their skin colour, race or what they believe in.
- **Sexist:** bullying someone because of their sex (whether they are a boy or a girl).
- **Homophobic:** bullying someone because of their gender or sexuality; calling someone gay or lesbian to hurt their feelings would be homophobic.
- **Transphobic:** bullying someone because of their preferred gender identity.
- **Disablist:** discrimination or prejudice against people who are disabled.

Online Abuse is any abuse that happens on the internet, using technology like computers, tablets, mobile phones and other internet-enabled devices. It can happen anywhere online that allows digital communication, such as social networks, text messages and messaging apps, email and private messaging, online chats, comments on live streaming sites, voice chat in games. This includes:

Cyber bullying involves sending horrid messages over the internet or by text message. Bullying can be done through another person, by one person sending another person to say unpleasant things.

Sending nudes or semi-nudes of someone under the age of 18. It is against the law to take, have or distribute a sexual photo. This includes sending a selfie or any indecent images of someone under 18 or encouraging or inciting someone to take or send images.

Sexual harassment and sexual violence is where people can act sexually towards others, and it makes them feel uncomfortable. This may happen online on social media, through messages and face-to-face. It might make someone feel scared, embarrassed, uncomfortable, or upset.

It could be:

- Making sexual comments, like telling sexual stories, saying rude things or saying sexual things about someone’s appearance or clothes.
- Calling someone sexual names or making sexual jokes or teasing.
- Being physical, such as touching which makes you feel uncomfortable, messing with your clothes, or showing pictures or drawings which are of a sexual nature.
- Sharing sexual pictures and videos online or posting sexual comments on social media.

- Sexual threats or pushing you to do something sexually that you don't want to or aren't ready for.
- Sexual violence could include significant incidents such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault. This may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence.

Relationships are not always positive. Sometimes there is abuse in intimate personal relationships between children. This may be known as 'teenage relationship abuse'.

2) How do I know if someone is being abused?

There are lots of small signs that may not be serious but could add up to something more significant.

These may include not going to school, having injuries like bruises, feeling sad and down, feeling they can't cope, feeling withdrawn, feeling poorly, not being able to sleep or sleeping too much, getting nightmares, feeling panicked, using alcohol or drugs, changing looks to look much older, being abusive to someone else.

You can feel these things too. Listen to how you feel and know that these signs can mean you are being abused.

3) What should I do if I or someone else is being abused?

Make sure you tell someone you trust. This could be a family member, a friend or a teacher.

You can also tell the person doing the abusing to leave you / them alone but only if you feel safe to do so.

You should try not to:

- Do what the person says.
- Let what the person says or does upset you.
- Retaliate in any way.

Always remember that if you are being abused, it is not your fault and there are people who can help.

Sometimes, you might not see someone being abused, but you might be worried about them. You might think they are being abused by someone you don't know, or someone they have told you about. It's really important you tell someone even if you are worried but haven't seen any abuse.

4) How can I stop abuse from happening?

We can all help stop abuse at our school by:

- Making sure we always behave appropriately.
- Helping others when they are in need.
- Being kind, friendly and respectful to others.
- Thinking about people's feelings before we say or do anything.
- Taking part in school activities (assemblies, PSHE, tutor activities) which talk about child-on-child abuse.
- Talking to someone when we are worried – either about ourselves or people we know.

5) Reporting Abuse

You can report abuse at Wollaston by:

- Talking to a teacher / member of staff you trust
- Emailing your form tutor or head of year
- Making a report at Student Services at either break or lunchtime
- Emailing worried@wollaston-school.net

Abuse is never OK and at Wollaston School we will always treat any reports seriously.

We will:

- ✓ Treat any report with appropriate confidentiality – only discussing with relevant members of staff.
- ✓ Investigate fully, making sure we get the voice of all young people concerned.
- ✓ Put in place sanctions which are appropriate and consistent.
- ✓ Put in place support for any victims of abuse, taking into account the wishes of the victim.