

Procedure for dealing with an incident or report of **peer-on-peer abuse** at Northleaze Primary School

Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter', 'just having a laugh' or 'part of growing up'. All peer-on-peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously at our school.



At Northleaze we recognise the different forms peer-on-peer abuse can take, such as:

- Bullying (including cyber bullying)
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment
- Upskirting
- Physical abuse
- Sexting
- Initiation/hazing-type violence and rituals

What to do if a child makes a disclosure of child-on-child sexual violence or harassment

- ✓ Listen and reassure the child that they will be supported and kept safe
- ✓ Make a written record as soon as possible, stating only the facts
- ✓ Tell our designated safeguarding lead (DSL) urgently:

Victoria Reyes – Headteacher

- ✓ Where appropriate, take action yourself:
 - If the child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, make a referral to children's social care
 - If an offence has been committed, report it to the police (even if the alleged perpetrator is under 10 – the age of criminal responsibility)
 - Find out whether the victim and alleged perpetrator share classes, premises or transport, and consider how best to deal with this

- ✗ Dismiss the incident as 'banter', 'part of growing up' or 'having a laugh'
- ✗ Ask leading questions
- ✗ Promise total confidentiality – explain who you will need to tell and why
- ✗ View photos or videos of a sexual nature
If you do so by accident or think you might need to in order to deal with the issue effectively, talk to our DSL
- ✗ Take notes while the child is talking, if at all possible
- ✗ Tell anyone about the disclosure unless they need to know in order to progress it

Where there's been a report of **sexual violence**, the DSL (or a deputy) should make an immediate risk and needs assessment, considering:

- The victim, especially their protection and support
- The alleged perpetrator
- All other children at the school (and adult students and staff, if appropriate), especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them

Where there's been a report of **sexual harassment**, the need for a risk assessment should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Definitions

Child-on-child sexual abuse: when a child (anyone under the age of 18) commits an act of sexual violence or harassment against another child

Sexual violence: rape, assault by penetration, or sexual assault (intentional sexual touching).

Sexual harassment: unwanted conduct of a sexual nature – such as sexual comments, sexual jokes or taunting, physical behaviour like interfering with clothes, or online harassment such as sexting.

Upskirting: taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing to obtain sexual gratification or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.

