

Sexual Abuse within Schools: Child on Child Abuse, Sexual Violence and Harassment and Harmful Sexual Behaviour:

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur online. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will in all likelihood adversely affect their educational attainment and will be exacerbated if the alleged perpetrator(s) also attends the Academy.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

All staff are trained to recognise incidents of child on child abuse and will report instances including sexual violence and harassment through the normal safeguarding concern process and recognise that support must be provided to both the alleged victim and abuser. It will be made clear that no form of child on child abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment will be tolerated or accepted as an inevitable part of growing up or banter, any behaviour of this type will be challenged by all adults working within the Trust and not normalised. Staff are aware that addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears relatively innocuous) can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future.

The Academy website states our position in relation to sexual violence and sexual harassment:

Our position as a trust and within all our academies is clear: sexual violence and sexual harassment are never acceptable, will never be tolerated and are not an inevitable part of growing up. Such behaviour will never go unchallenged or become accepted and we remain committed to working openly and transparently to promote mutual respect. We will always act on concerns raised.

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy has guidance within it around the indicators of peer on peer abuse and harmful sexual behaviour along with our response procedures. All relevant Safeguarding Policies are available on individual academy websites.

All students are taught the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum.

The appropriate means for disclosing an allegation of abuse relating to another student is always to inform a member of the specific academy's safeguarding team directly or a member of the Trust Safeguarding Directorate. In the event that an allegation is made against a member of staff, this must be sent to the Academy Principal or directly to the Trust Safeguarding Directorate. We will always act on concerns raised'.

KCSIE 2023: Part 5 and Appendix 3 of our Site Specific Safeguarding Policy provide further information regarding sexual violence and sexual harassment between children and Academy response and reporting procedures.