



Policy:	Managing allegations against other pupils (Based on HCC Model Policy and Procedures January 2016)
Policy Date:	AUTUMN 2024
Review Cycle:	Annual
Reviewer:	FGB
Next Review:	Autumn 2025

### Managing allegations against other pupils

**Policy:**

At Chawton C of E Primary School we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other students.

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers and this will be dealt with under our child protection policy and in line with KCSiE (2024).

We recognise that some pupils will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school’s behaviour policy.

We are clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up

We will minimise the risk of child on child abuse by:-

**Prevention**

As a school we will minimise the risk of allegations against other pupils by:-

- Taking a whole school approach to safeguarding and child protection
- Providing a clear set of values and standards, underpinned by the school’s behaviour policy and pastoral support system.
- Providing a planned, developmentally appropriate Personal Development - statutory Relationships and Health Education(RHE) and Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) which develops students understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe
- Having systems in place for any student to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued
- Delivering targeted work on assertiveness and keeping safe to those pupils identified as being at risk
- Developing robust risk assessments and providing targeted work for pupils identified as being a potential risk to other pupils.
- Providing training to staff
- Engaging with specialist support and interventions.

‘Let all that you do, be done in love.’ 1 Corinthians 16:14

‘Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’ Joshua 1: 5-9

‘If we walk in the light as He himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another...’ 1 John 1-7

## **Allegations against other pupils which are safeguarding issues**

Occasionally, allegations may be made against pupils by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature.

Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, sexual violence, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation.

### **Procedure:**

- Children making a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment will be taken seriously, kept safe and be well supported.
- If the report includes an online element staff will be mindful of the Searching, Screening and Confiscation: advice for schools (DfE 2021) guidance.
- Staff taking the report will inform the DSL or their Deputy as soon as practicably possible but at least within 24 hours.
- Staff taking a report will never promise confidentiality.
- Parents or carers will normally be informed (unless this would put the child at greater risk).
- If a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a referral will be made to Children's Reception Team: 03005551381 Out of Hours: 03005551373

### **Risk Assessment:**

Following a report, the DSL will make an immediate risk and needs assessment on a case-by-case basis.

The Risk assessment will consider:

- The victim, especially their protection and support.
- The alleged perpetrator, their support needs and any discipline action.
- All other children at the school.
- The victim and the alleged perpetrator sharing classes and space at school.

The risk assessment will be recorded and kept under review.

Where there has been other professional intervention and/or other specialist risk assessments, these professional assessments will be used to inform the school's approach to supporting and protecting pupils.

### **Action:**

#### **The DSL will consider:**

- The wishes of the victim.
- The nature of the incident including whether a crime has been committed and the harm caused.
- Ages of the children involved.
- Developmental stages of the children.
- Any power imbalance between the children.
- Any previous incidents.
- Ongoing risks.
- Other related issues or wider context.

### **Options:**

#### **The DSL will manage the report with the following options:-**

- Manage internally
- Early Help
- Refer to Childrens' Reception Team
- Report to the police (generally in parallel with a referral to Childrens' Reception Team)

### **Ongoing Response:**

- The DSL will manage each report on a case by case basis and will keep the risk assessment under review.
- Where there is a criminal investigation into a rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault, the alleged perpetrator should be removed from any classes they share with the victim.
- The DSL will consider how best to keep the victim and perpetrator a reasonable distance apart on school premises and on transport where appropriate.
- Where a criminal investigation into a rape or assault by penetration leads to a conviction or caution, the school will take suitable action. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances, the rape or assault is likely to constitute a serious breach of discipline and lead to the view that allowing the perpetrator to remain in the same school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the victim (and potentially other pupils or students).
- Where a criminal investigation into sexual assault leads to a conviction or caution, the school will, if it has not already, consider any suitable sanctions in light of their behaviour policy, including consideration of permanent exclusion. Where the perpetrator is going to remain at the school, the principle would be to continue keeping the victim and perpetrator in separate classes and continue to consider the most appropriate way to manage potential contact on school and college premises and transport. The nature of the conviction or caution and wishes of the victim will be especially important in determining how to proceed in such cases.
- The victim, alleged perpetrator and other witnesses (children and adults) will receive appropriate support and safeguards on a case-by-case basis.
- The school will take any disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator in line with behaviour and discipline in schools.
- The school recognises that taking disciplinary action and providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions and will occur at the same time if necessary.

### **Physical Abuse**

While a clear focus of child on child abuse is around sexual abuse and harassment, physical assaults and initiation violence and rituals from pupils to pupils can also be abusive.

These are equally not tolerated and if it is believed that a crime has been committed, will be reported to the police.

The principles from the anti-bullying policy will be applied in these cases, with recognition that any police investigation will need to take priority.

### **References:**

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges (DfE 2018)
- Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership protocols and guidance and their procedures
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2023\)](#)
- [FGM Act 2003 Mandatory Reporting Guidance \(2016\)](#)
- [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](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)
- <https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/Children%20and%20Young%20people/When%20to%20call%20police%20guidance%20for%20schools%20and%20colleges>