



Plymouth Grove Primary School

Child on Child Abuse Policy

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Plymouth Grove is a Rights Respecting School

This Policy covers the following Rights in respect of UNICEF's The Convention On The Rights Of The Child:

- Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children
- Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child): When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.
- Article 16 (Right to privacy): Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes
- Article 19 (Protection from all forms of violence): Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally.
- Article 23 (children with a disability) A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community.
- Article 28: (Right to education): All children have the right to a primary education, which should be free. Discipline in schools should respect children's dignity. For children to benefit from education, schools must be run in an orderly way. Any form of school discipline should take into account the child's human dignity.
- Article 29 (Goals of education): Children's education should develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. It should encourage children to respect others, human rights and their own and other cultures. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.
- Article 34 (sexual exploitation) Governments must protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Article 37 (Detention and punishment): No one is allowed to punish children in a cruel or harmful way.

Plymouth Grove fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and support pupils both in and out of school. We are fully committed to the safeguarding and welfare of all of our school community through prevention, intervention and continued support.

All staff, volunteers and visitors have a responsibility to report any concerns about the welfare and safety of a child and all such concerns must be taken seriously. Staff working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff should always act in the best interests of the child.

Introduction:

Plymouth Grove recognises that Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 requires all staff to be aware that children can abuse other children (Child on Child abuse) and adopt the mentality that "It could happen here". All staff should be aware that if there are no reports of Child on Child abuse that does not mean it isn't happening and all relevant policies, preventions and support should be in place.

Any concerns that Child on Child abuse may be happening should be shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and recorded on CPOMS under the appropriate category.

Definition:

Child on Child abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control exercised between children, and within children's relationships (both intimate and non-intimate), friendships, and wider peer associations.

Online Child on Child abuse is any form of abuse with a digital component to it. This can include but is not limited to the sharing of indecent images, unwanted digital contact, online harassment and abuse, grooming and threatening behaviour. Plymouth Grove recognises that both in person and online abuse are often interlinked and are to be taken seriously.

It is important that all staff are able to recognise and challenge inappropriate behaviours between children including those listed below. Plymouth Grove takes the following behaviours seriously:

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022, states that Child-on-child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as 'teenage relationship abuse')
- physical abuse such as 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)

- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)

sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse

- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party

- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos¹¹ (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)

- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm, and

- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).

Vulnerable Children:

Plymouth Grove recognises that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect with vulnerable groups of children. These can include being more prone to peer group isolation than other children. Plymouth Grove understands that children who may fall into the following groups may be at increased risk of abuse:

- Individual and situation factors can increase a child's vulnerabilities to abuse by their peers such as the sharing of an image or photograph

- Children who are socially isolated from their peers

- Children who are questioning or exploring their sexuality may also be particularly vulnerable to abuse

- Children with certain characteristics such as sexual orientation, ethnicity, race or religious beliefs

- Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) are three times more likely to be abused than their peers without SEND

Online Abuse:

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 states that:

All staff should be aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children are at risk of abuse and other risks online as well as face to face. In many cases abuse and other risks will take place concurrently both online and offline. Children can also abuse other children online, this can take the form of abusive, harassing, and misogynistic/misandrist messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography, to those who do not want to receive such content.

Prevention:

Plymouth Grove support with the prevention of Child-on-Child abuse by:

- Creating a safe culture in school by implementing policies and procedures that address child on child abuse and harmful attitudes
- Providing a Relationships Education programme, that is in line with the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education statutory guidance 2021, providing a developmentally appropriate PSHE syllabus which develops pupils' understanding of acceptable behaviour, keeping themselves safe, the nature of child on child abuse and what is meant by consent
- Having robust monitoring and filtering systems in place to ensure pupils are safe and act appropriately when using information technology in school
- Having systems in place for disclosures to be made to staff that makes children feel safe, listened to and taken seriously
- A robust and clear reporting procedure in conjunction with a clear escalation policy
- Developing risk assessments and providing targeted but supportive work for those pupils identified as being at risk of displaying such behaviours
- The continuous promotion of healthy relationships and healthy and positive attitudes towards gender and sexuality
- Continuous safeguarding training for all staff in school to support with the early identification of child on child abuse as well being able to confidently report concerns and support children where needed

Disclosures:

When an allegation is made by a pupil against another pupil or a member of staff has witnessed a child on child abuse incident it must be reported in a timely manner to the schools Designated Safeguarding Lead.

- The DSL will listen to the allegation without judgement
- The school will consider the wider context of where the incident(s) took place including the physical environment in the school building or surrounding area, the route to and from school and online environment.
- The DSL will follow safeguarding procedures and may contact the Advice & Guidance Service (Manchester Children's Services), and will not investigate until further advice has been sought.
- If it is believed that a criminal offence has taken place the police will be informed either by the school or Children's Services.
- All incident(s) are to be recorded in a timely, accurate, appropriate and confidential manner.
- Parents of children concerned with the allegation/disclosure will be informed and kept up to date with any following steps.
- School will consider if there is a safeguarding risk and will implement robust risk assessments to protect all children within the school.
- If the allegation is regarding online incident(s) the school will follow their online safeguarding procedures, consider the removal of the technology used or of which there is access and inform the relevant agencies in order to have images taken down, if relevant. The same safeguarding policies are to be followed as above.

Record Keeping:

All staff have a duty to record safeguarding incidents securely and in a timely manner ensuring the information is accurate, relevant, confidential and appropriate to the incident. It is important to note that where there are criminal investigations these records may be requested and used in court.

Support:

Plymouth Grove is committed to the prevention of child-on-child abuse however when incidents occur we will ensure:

- **Support is offered to the child who has been harmed**
- **Support is offered to the child whom the allegation has been made against or is at risk of displaying concerning behaviours**

The support offered will be determined by the young person and their wishes. Plymouth Grove recognises that every child is different and will require a different level or form of support after such incidents. It is important that the child's voice is captured and is used to inform school of how to best support our pupils.

If a child feels particularly vulnerable it may be that a safety risk assessment is implemented to support the child to continue attending school whilst feeling safe. Sometimes a referral to external support services such as Early Help can help support families where this is consented to school will make these referrals.

It is also important to understand why a child would demonstrate harmful behaviour, it can often be an indicator that the young person is experiencing their own difficulties and may have been harmed themselves in a similar way. In such cases counselling or other support may be required.

Where appropriate we will implement whole school/year group targeted interventions through assemblies, workshops, guest speakers, targeted pieces of work.

Where a child continues to display harmful behaviours, a multi-agency response will be followed ensuring the needs of the young person are being met and risk assessments can be implemented effectively.

Plymouth Grove is committed to the safeguarding of all our pupils and will always seek external support where required to ensure the safety and well-being of our school community

Escalation:

If a parent/carer or professional are not satisfied with the response taken by school they are advised to follow the school's escalation policy.

Policies:

Safeguarding and child protection policy

Online Use Policy

Whistleblowing Policy

Health, Relationships and Sex Education Policy

[Link to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#)