

# Peer on Peer Abuse - Student Briefing

This year, we have introduced a Peer on Peer Abuse Policy. The purpose of this briefing paper is to inform you about this important policy.

## What is peer on peer abuse?

This is when a young person is forced to do something, or used by someone or bullied or harmed by other young people. This type of behaviour is seen as abusive when:

- There is a large difference in power between the young people involved. This imbalance of power may be due to the different ages of the young people or differences in size, ability, numbers of students involved, etc;
- The abuser has repeatedly tried to harm one or more other children;
- Or there is evidence to suggest that the abuser had the intention to cause severe harm to the victim or to exploit them, even if no actual harm occurred.

## Typical examples of this kind of abuse include:

- Sending or receiving nude or semi-nude images or pressuring people to share such images;
  - Emotional abuse including blackmail, threats and intimidation;
- Teenage relationship abuse where one partner in a couple has a pattern of actual or threatening acts of physical sexual and/or emotional abuse against a current or former partner;
- Attacking someone physically or verbally, or excluding them for a particular reason such as size, hair colour, race, gender, or sexual orientation;
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment. All schools have been told to assume that this behaviour happens in all schools. Sexual harassment means unwanted conduct of a sexual nature that can occur online as well as offline.

## How can we prevent it?

The school aims to minimise the risk of this behaviour by:

- Covering relevant topics in the Lifeskills programme;
- Providing guidance for students about online safety and responsible behaviour;
  - Having clear systems for students to raise concerns with staff;
  - Supporting students who have been the victims of this behaviour
- supporting students who have been the perpetrators of his behaviour so they do not repeat such behaviour
- having relevant policies, such as the behaviour policy, to offer students very clear guidance on what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- having zero tolerance for abuse, never allowing sexual harassment to be passed off as banter, etc

## Responding to allegations - what the school do

- We will investigate the incident thoroughly, letting those who need to know know and being as fair and sensitive as possible;
  - We will work with the victim to help them feel as safe as possible in school;
    - We will work with the perpetrator so they understand the issues;
    - Where sanctions are needed, they will be issued;
  - We will talk to other students who may need talking to about the incident;
- We will check in with the victim and perpetrator for several weeks after the incident to check on things;
- We will make additional referrals to outside agencies, including the police, if needed.

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### **Responding to allegations - what you should do**

- If you are aware of an incident or have information about one, please report it using the @Talk app or by letting a member of staff or your parents/carers know;
- Please DO NOT discuss it with other students. Often the worst thing that young people have to deal with at these times is lots of talk about it and other people wanting to get involved. Please respect others' privacy.

### **Where can you get more information and/or support about peer on peer abuse?**

Please see a member of the school safeguarding team and/or use national helplines and websites such as [Childline](#), the [NSPCC](#) and Savvy Kernow.