New Horizons
LEARNING CENTRE
Unlocking Potential
through Learning

Child Friendly Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy

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Policy responsibility - Senco
Policy Location: Student Friendly
Signed by: Mr Andrew Mclean

Position: Chair of Governors

Child-Friendly Child-on-Child Abuse Policy

A clear safeguarding policy for pupils across New Horizons Learning Centre

SAFE • RESPECTFUL • LISTENED TO

Feeling safe and happy at school

At New Horizons Learning Centre, we want you to feel safe, supported and listened to. If something is happening that makes you feel unsafe, worried or uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult. We will listen to you and help.

This policy will help you understand:

- what child-on-child abuse is
- what different types of abuse can look like
- what to do if you are worried about yourself or someone else
- which trusted adults you can talk to

1. What is child-on-child abuse?

Child-on-child abuse is when a child or young person hurts, scares, pressures or upsets another child or young person.

It can happen in school, outside school or online. Sometimes it can be difficult to recognise. If something does not feel right, or makes you feel unsafe, worried or uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult.

Important

There are different types of child-on-child abuse. Knowing what they can look like helps you know when to ask for help.

2. Bullying

Bullying is one type of child-on-child abuse.

Bullying is when someone hurts, frightens or upsets another person on purpose, and it happens more than once.

- **Emotional:** hurting someone's feelings, deliberately leaving them out or repeatedly bossing them around.
- **Physical:** hitting, kicking, punching, pushing or spitting at someone.
- **Verbal:** teasing someone, calling them names or saying hurtful things.
- **Online:** sending or posting unkind or hurtful messages, comments, pictures or videos online.

Someone might also get another person to say or do hurtful things for them.

Bullying can also target someone because of who they are

- Racist bullying
- Sexist bullying
- Homophobic or biphobic bullying
- Disability-related bullying
- Transphobic bullying
- Faith-related bullying

Using words such as "gay" as an insult is also not OK.

3. Sharing nude or sexual images

This means sending or sharing nude, semi-nude or sexual pictures or videos.

It can also include asking or pressuring someone to send these pictures or videos.

> **Pressure is not OK**
> Pressuring someone to send a nude or sexual image is not OK and can be abuse.

It is against the law to make, have or share nude or sexual images or videos of anyone under 18, including images that a young person has taken of themselves.

> **If this happens**
> Tell a trusted adult. You will be listened to and supported.

4. Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is sexual behaviour that is unwanted or makes someone feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, frightened or upset.

It can happen face-to-face, online, on social media or through messages. It might include:

- making sexual comments or jokes
- calling someone sexual names
- saying sexual things about someone's body, appearance or clothes
- touching someone in a sexual way when they do not want this
- pulling at or interfering with someone's clothes
- showing or sharing sexual pictures, drawings or videos
- posting sexual comments about someone online
- pressuring or threatening someone to do something sexual
- not accepting when someone says no or wants something to stop

> **Your boundaries matter**
> You have the right to say no to sexual behaviour or touching that you do not want.

5. Relationships

Healthy relationships should help you feel safe, respected and able to be yourself. People can disagree sometimes, but you should not feel frightened, controlled or pressured.

Healthy relationships may include:

- You feel safe around the person.
- You can be honest with each other.
- You can say how you feel and listen to each other.
- You support and respect each other.
- You can say no.
- Neither person controls or bosses the other.
- You trust each other.

An unhealthy or unsafe relationship might include:

- Someone hitting, pushing or hurting you.
- Someone controlling what you do, what you wear or who you spend time with.
- Someone threatening you or making you feel frightened.
- Someone calling you names or deliberately making you feel bad about yourself.
- Someone pressuring you to do things you do not want to do.
- Someone pressuring you to use drugs or alcohol.
- Someone not accepting “no” as an answer.

6. How do I know if someone might be being abused?

These signs do not always mean that abuse is happening, but they may show that someone is worried, upset or needs help.

- not wanting to come to school
- having unexplained injuries, such as bruises
- seeming very sad or withdrawn
- feeling nervous, frightened or panicked
- having headaches or stomach aches
- having problems sleeping or having nightmares
- feeling like they cannot cope
- using alcohol or drugs
- becoming more angry, aggressive or hurtful towards other people

If you are worried

If you are worried about yourself or someone else, tell a trusted adult.

7. What should I do if I am being abused?

- Tell a trusted adult as soon as you can.
- If you feel safe to do so, tell the person to stop or leave you alone.
- Move away from the situation if you can.
- Do not hit or hurt them back.
- Do not do anything that makes you feel unsafe or uncomfortable.
- Keep telling adults until someone helps you.

Remember

If someone is abusing you, it is not your fault. You deserve to be safe and supported.