Child-on-Child Abuse Policy

September 2026

Review date: September 2027

Academy Council approved: September 2027

This policy should be read alongside the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and reflects the principles set out in the latest edition of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). Other supporting policies that may be relevant include Evergreen SEND policy and Evergreen Early years policy.

Key Safeguarding Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Julie Vincent
Deputy DSL(s): Toni Dorse
Principal: Kerry Coote

Academy Link Councillor: Tim Morris

1. Purpose

This policy outlines how Evergreen Primary Academy will:

- Prevent child-on-child abuse.
- Identify concerns at the earliest opportunity
- Respond effectively to allegations and incidents
- Support victims, alleged perpetrators and witnesses
- Work with parents, carers and external agencies
- Maintain a culture where children feel safe to report concerns.

2. Definition of Child-on-Child Abuse

Child-on-child abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse, coercive control, bullying, exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour or abuse occurring between children.

Abuse may be:

- A one-off incident
- Repeated behaviour
- Group-related behaviour
- Face-to-face
- Online.

The fact that a child displaying harmful behaviour may have experienced abuse themselves does not negate the need to protect other children.

3. Forms of Child-on-Child Abuse

Child-on-child abuse can include, but is not limited to:

Physical Abuse

- Hitting, kicking, punching or assault
- Physical intimidation

- Damaging property.

Emotional Abuse

- Threats
- Humiliation
- Coercion
- Manipulation
- Deliberate exclusion.

Bullying

- Verbal bullying
- Physical bullying
- Social bullying
- Online bullying
- Prejudice-based bullying.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Including:

- Sexual comments and jokes
- Sexualised language
- Unwanted touching
- Sexual assault
- Sharing nude or semi-nude images
- Online sexual harassment.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

The school recognises that sexual behaviour exists on a continuum. Some behaviour is developmentally expected, while other behaviour may be inappropriate, problematic or abusive.

Indicators may include:

- Persistent sexualised behaviour

- Coercion or pressure
- Age-inappropriate sexual knowledge
- Behaviour causing harm, distress or fear.

All incidents will be assessed on a case-by-case basis with appropriate safeguarding support.

Child Sexual Exploitation

- Grooming
- Manipulation
- Exchange of gifts, money, affection or status for sexual activity.

Abuse Related to Protected Characteristics

Including abuse motivated by race, religion, disability, sex, gender reassignment or sexual orientation.

Online Abuse

- Cyberbullying
- Image sharing without consent
- Coercive messaging
- Online intimidation
- Exploitation through social media or gaming platforms

4. Prevention

Curriculum

Children will be taught through:

- Relationships Education
- PSHE
- Computing
- Online Safety
- Assemblies

- Safeguarding-focused learning.

Teaching will include:

- Respectful relationships
- Consent and personal boundaries
- Recognising harmful behaviour
- Online safety
- Reporting concerns.

School Culture

The academy will:

- Promote inclusion and respect
- Challenge discriminatory language
- Encourage reporting
- Train staff regularly
- Respond consistently to concerns.

5. Reporting concerns

1. Concern observed or disclosed
2. Staff member listens, reassures and records facts
3. Concern passed immediately to Julie Vincent (DSL) or Toni Dorse (DDSL)
4. Support provided to victim and other children involved
5. Decision regarding referral to children's social care, police or other agencies made by the safeguarding team
6. Monitoring, review and ongoing support takes place.

All staff must:

- Listen carefully
- Reassure the child
- Avoid leading questions
- Never promise confidentiality
- Record accurately

- Report immediately to the DSL

6. Responding to Allegations

The safety and wellbeing of all children involved will be paramount.

The DSL will:

- Assess severity and risk
- Consider the wishes of the victim (such that they do not override the duty to refer)
- Determine whether the incident should be managed internally or referred externally
- Liaise with parents where appropriate
- Maintain detailed records.

Where necessary the school will seek advice from:

- Bristol Children's Services
- Avon and Somerset Police
- Health professionals
- The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- Other safeguarding partners.

7. Low-Level behaviours

The academy recognises that some incidents may initially appear low-level but could indicate emerging harmful behaviours.

Examples may include:

- Inappropriate comments
- Repeated boundary violations
- Persistent teasing of a sexual nature
- Discriminatory language.

Such concerns will be recorded, monitored and addressed promptly to prevent escalation.

8. Supporting Victims

Support may include:

- Safety and risk planning
- Pastoral support
- Emotional wellbeing support
- Counselling referrals
- Adjustments to routines or timetables
- Ongoing communication with families.

The academy will ensure that victims are not disadvantaged by the safeguarding process.

9. Supporting Children Displaying Harmful Behaviour

Support may include:

- Behaviour interventions
- Safeguarding assessments
- External agency involvement
- Therapeutic support
- Restorative approaches where appropriate.

Sanctions may be applied in line with our Relationships and Behaviour policy.

10. Online Safety

The school recognises that child-on-child abuse may occur through mobile devices, social media, gaming platforms and messaging applications.

Staff will respond to online incidents in the same way as offline safeguarding concerns.

11. Record Keeping

All concerns will be:

- Recorded promptly
- Stored securely

- Shared on a need-to-know basis
- Retained in line with safeguarding requirements.

12. Roles and Responsibilities

Academy Council

Will ensure safeguarding arrangements remain effective and compliant with statutory requirements.

Principal

Will lead a safeguarding culture and ensure staff training is effective.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Will manage concerns, referrals, record keeping and multi-agency working.

Staff

Will remain vigilant and report concerns immediately.

13. Local Safeguarding Arrangements

Evergreen Primary Academy will follow local safeguarding procedures and work in partnership with Bristol safeguarding agencies, Children's Social Care, health services and the police where required.

14. Related Policies

- Safeguarding Policy
- Relationships and Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Equality Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually.