



KENNINGTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Child on Child Abuse Policy

<i>Reviewed/Updated by</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Signed</i>
<i>Head Teacher & Governors</i>	<i>September 2026</i>	<i>S. Pritchard</i>

KENNINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Child-on-Child Abuse Policy

Policy Lead: Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Date Adopted: September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

Approved by: Governing Board

1. Policy Statement

Kennington Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and respectful environment where all children feel valued, listened to and protected.

The school recognises that children can abuse other children and that child-on-child abuse is a safeguarding issue that requires an appropriate safeguarding response.

The school operates a **zero-tolerance approach** to all forms of child-on-child abuse. Abuse will never be dismissed as:

- banter;
- horseplay;
- part of growing up;
- just having a laugh;
- boys being boys;
- a private matter between children.

All concerns will be taken seriously, investigated appropriately and responded to in line with safeguarding procedures. Child-on-child abuse can occur both inside and outside school and can take place online as well as offline.

2. Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children;
- Children Act 1989 and 2004;
- Education Act 2002;
- Equality Act 2010;
- Human Rights Act 1998;
- Data Protection Act 2018;

- UK GDPR;
- Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership procedures;
- DfE Guidance on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy;
 - Behaviour Policy;
 - Anti-Bullying Policy;
 - Online Safety Policy;
 - Staff Code of Conduct;
 - Relationships Education Policy;
 - Acceptable Use Agreements.
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3. Definition of Child-on-Child Abuse

Child-on-child abuse is abuse that takes place between children under the age of 18.

Child-on-child abuse can affect any child regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation or background.

The school recognises that child-on-child abuse is a safeguarding issue for:

- the child who may have experienced harm;
- the child whose behaviour has caused concern;
- any other children affected.

All children involved may require safeguarding support.

4. Forms of Child-on-Child Abuse

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

Bullying

Including:

- physical bullying;
- verbal bullying;
- emotional bullying;
- cyberbullying;
- racist bullying;
- discriminatory bullying;

- homophobic bullying;
- prejudice-based bullying.

Abuse in Intimate Relationships

Including controlling behaviour, coercive behaviour and relationship abuse.

Physical Abuse

Including:

- hitting;
- kicking;
- shaking;
- biting;
- hair pulling;
- physical assault;
- threats involving weapons.

Sexual Harassment

Including:

- sexual comments;
- sexualised language;
- unwanted sexual attention;
- sexual jokes;
- online sexual harassment.

Sexual Violence

Including:

- sexual assault;
- rape;
- assault by penetration;
- causing another person to engage in sexual activity without consent.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

Including developmentally inappropriate, problematic, abusive or violent sexual behaviours.

Sharing Nudes and Semi-Nudes

Including:

- consensual sharing;

- non-consensual sharing;
- coerced sharing;
- AI-generated sexual imagery.

Image-Based Abuse

Including:

- threats to share intimate images;
- distribution of intimate images;
- manipulated imagery.

AI-Generated Abuse

Including:

- deepfakes;
- manipulated sexual imagery;
- fake intimate images;
- synthetic audio or video intended to cause harm.

Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion (Sextortion)

Including:

- blackmail using intimate images;
- coercion for money;
- demands for additional imagery.

Initiation and Hazing Behaviour

Including activities involving humiliation, abuse or intimidation.

5. Harmful Sexual Behaviour

The school recognises that harmful sexual behaviour exists on a continuum.

Children displaying harmful sexual behaviour may:

- have experienced abuse themselves;
- have unmet safeguarding needs;
- require specialist support.

Early intervention is essential.

The school will consider:

- age;

- developmental stage;
- level of understanding;
- context;
- vulnerability;
- power imbalance;
- previous incidents.

All harmful sexual behaviour concerns will be managed through safeguarding procedures.

6. AI-Generated and Manipulated Content

The school recognises that generative AI can be used to create:

- deepfakes;
- manipulated audio;
- fake videos;
- impersonation;
- counterfeit sexual imagery.

The creation, possession or sharing of AI-generated sexual imagery involving children may constitute a serious safeguarding concern.

Any concerns involving AI-generated or manipulated sexual content must be reported immediately to the DSL.

Staff must not:

- investigate independently;
 - download material unnecessarily;
 - distribute images or videos.
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7. Factors That May Increase Vulnerability

Any child can experience child-on-child abuse.

Additional vulnerabilities may include:

- SEND;
- communication difficulties;
- mental health concerns;
- social isolation;
- previous abuse or neglect;

- looked after children;
- children with a social worker;
- children questioning their identity;
- children experiencing discrimination.

Staff will not assume behaviours relate solely to SEND or additional needs.

8. Preventing Child-on-Child Abuse

Kennington Primary School will:

- promote respectful relationships;
- challenge inappropriate language and behaviour;
- challenge sexism, misogyny and discrimination;
- teach healthy relationships;
- teach consent and body autonomy in an age-appropriate way;
- teach online safety;
- teach pupils how to report concerns;
- provide clear reporting systems;
- monitor safeguarding trends;
- engage with parents and carers;
- review incidents and lessons learned.

Child-on-child abuse prevention is embedded within:

- Relationships Education;
 - PSHE;
 - Computing;
 - assemblies;
 - safeguarding activities;
 - Safer Internet Day.
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9. Reporting Concerns

Pupils can report concerns by:

- speaking to any trusted adult;
- speaking to their class teacher;

- speaking to the DSL;
- speaking to a Deputy DSL;
- using classroom worry boxes;
- asking for help for themselves or a friend.

The school promotes these systems regularly.

Children will be listened to and taken seriously.

10. Responding to Concerns

All staff must:

- listen carefully;
- remain calm;
- avoid judgement;
- reassure the child;
- never promise confidentiality;
- record information accurately;
- report concerns immediately to the DSL.

Staff must maintain an attitude of:

"It could happen here."

11. Risk and Needs Assessment

Following reports of sexual harassment, sexual violence or harmful sexual behaviour, the DSL will undertake a risk and needs assessment considering:

- wishes of the child;
- nature of the concern;
- ages involved;
- developmental stages;
- power imbalance;
- ongoing risks;
- contextual safeguarding concerns;
- support required;
- needs of all children involved.

Risk assessments will be reviewed regularly.

12. Multi-Agency Working

The school will work with:

- Children's Social Care;
- Police;
- Early Help;
- Health Services;
- Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership;
- relevant specialist services.

Referrals will be made immediately where there is risk of significant harm.

13. Support for Children

Support may include:

- pastoral support;
- trusted adult support;
- mentoring;
- counselling;
- CAMHS referral;
- Early Help;
- safeguarding intervention.

Support will be provided for:

- children who have experienced harm;
 - children whose behaviour has caused concern;
 - witnesses and affected peers.
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14. Record Keeping

All concerns will be recorded using CPOMS.

Records will include:

- nature of concern;
- actions taken;

- decisions made;
- rationale;
- risk assessments;
- outcomes.

Records will be confidential and maintained in line with safeguarding and data protection requirements.

15. Monitoring and Review

The Governing Board and DSL will review:

- safeguarding trends;
- incidents;
- training needs;
- pupil voice;
- effectiveness of reporting systems;
- effectiveness of preventative education.

This policy will be reviewed:

- annually;
 - following significant incidents;
 - following changes to statutory guidance.
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Key Principles

At Kennington Primary School:

- child-on-child abuse is a safeguarding issue;
- all children deserve to feel safe;
- reports will always be taken seriously;
- abuse will never be dismissed as banter;
- online abuse is as serious as offline abuse;
- pupils are encouraged to seek help without fear of blame;
- safeguarding responses will be child-centred;
- staff will record, report and respond appropriately;
- the school will work with families and partner agencies to protect children.

Policy adopted: September 2026

Review date: September 2027