



## **Kirkburton Middle School**

‘Enjoying, succeeding, achieving together’

Pupil guide to Safeguarding

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## Feeling safe and happy at school



At Kirkburton Middle School, we want to make sure that you feel looked after, safe and happy when you are in and out of school.

Sometimes we don't know if something bad is happening, so you need to tell us.

This booklet looks at safeguarding, and what you can do when you feel you feel scared or worried about anything.

# 1

## What is peer on peer abuse?

A **peer** is someone who might be your friend, a child at school with you, or another child you may know.

**Abuse** is something which usually physically or emotionally **hurts** another person by using behaviour that is meant to **scare**, **hurt** or **upset** that person.

Sometimes, it can be hard to know when abuse is happening, because **not all** abuse will hurt, scare or upset you, and you might not know it is happening. It's really **important** you know when you are being abused so we can make sure it stops.

There are lots of different types of abuse. It is important you know what these types of abuse are so you know what to do if you see them.

# 2

## Bullying

Bullying can be different things, and isn't just hitting or kicking another person.

**Emotional bullying** is hurting someone's feelings, leaving them out or bossing them about.

**Physical bullying** is punching, kicking, spitting, hitting or pushing someone.



**Verbal bullying** is teasing someone, calling them names or using rude hand signs. People can also use verbal bullying to be **racist** or **homophobic**.

**Racist** means bullying someone because of their skin colour, race or what they believe in.

**Homophobic** means bullying someone because of their gender or sexuality; calling someone gay or lesbian to hurt their feelings would be homophobic.

**Sexist** means bullying someone because of their sex (whether they are a boy or a girl).

**Cyber bullying** involves sending unkind/offensive messages over the internet or by text message.

Bullying can be done through **another person**, by one person sending another person to say nasty things.



3

### **Sexting**

This is sending **inappropriate pictures, videos or messages** – they can sometimes be called ‘nude pics’, ‘rude pics’ or ‘nude selfies’, but can also be rude messages.

**Pressuring** someone into sending these pictures, videos and messages is **abuse**.

Even if you are not the person who is sending them, it is **illegal** to have these kind of pictures or videos of a person if they are under 18 years old.



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### **Sexual harassment**

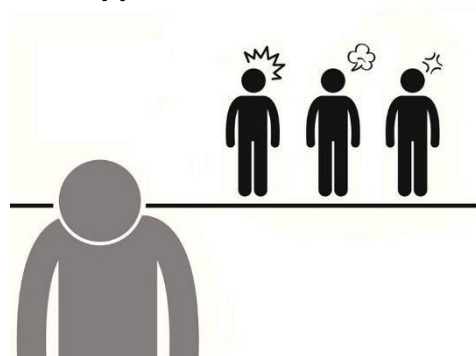
Sometimes, people can **act sexually towards others** and it might make them feel uncomfortable.

This can happen **online**, on social media, through messages and **face-to-face**.

It might make someone feel **scared, embarrassed, uncomfortable** or **upset**.

It could be:

- Someone making **sexual comments**, like telling sexual stories, saying **rude things** or saying sexual things about someone’s **appearance** or clothes.
- Calling someone **sexual names**.
- **Sexual jokes** or teasing.
- Being physical, like **touching** which makes you feel uncomfortable, messing with your clothes, or **showing pictures** or **drawings** which are of a sexual nature.
- Being sexual online, like **sharing sexual pictures** and **videos**, or posting sexual comments on social media.





## Relationships

Any relationship you have should be **good** and **happy**. A bad relationship might make someone feel **scared**, **confused**, **worried** and even **unsafe**.

It's really important that you know the **difference** between a good relationship and a bad relationship.

### Good Relationships

- You are **comfortable** around that person.
- You can be **honest** with that person.
- You can say how you **feel**, what you are **thinking** and you **listen** to each other.
- You **support** each other and treat each other **nicely**.
- You feel **safe**.
- You **trust** that person.
- You are **equal** – you don't boss each other around or tell each other what to do.
- You feel **looked after**.



### Bad Relationships

- The person might **push** you, **hit** you or **destroy** your things.
- The person might **tell you what to do**, what to wear or who you can see.
- You might feel **scared** – they might say they will hurt you if you don't do something.
- The person **calls you names**, makes you feel bad in front of other people and makes you **feel bad about yourself**.
- The person gets **angry easily** and you don't know what will make them angry – it might make you feel **nervous**.
- The person might **pressure** you to do things **you don't want to** or aren't ready for, like sex, or using drugs and alcohol.

- The person **might not take no for answer** when you say you don't want to do something.



# 6

## How do I know if someone is being abused?

It might be hard for you to know if you are being abused and you **might not really understand** it is happening. It is important you can **recognise** when behaviour isn't appropriate.

It's also important that you can notice when **someone else** might be being abused.

Some signs might be:

- Not going to school.
- Having injuries, like bruises.
- Feeling sad and down.
- Feeling like they can't cope.
- Feeling withdrawn or shy.
- Getting headaches or stomach ache.
- Feeling nervous.
- Not being able to sleep, sleeping too much or getting nightmares.
- Feeling panicked.
- Being abusive to someone else



**Remember:** you can feel all of these things too. Listen to how you feel, and know that these signs can mean you are being abused.

# 7

## What do I do if someone else is being abused?

If you know or see someone else being abused, it is important that you **help** that person.

You should never ignore the problem if you see someone else being abused, because the person might keep upsetting them.

If you can, and it is **safe** to do so, tell the person abusing you to **stop**, but never get angry or hit them.

**Tell a grown-up**, such as a teacher, as soon as you've seen someone being abused.

Grown-ups can **stop the abuse** and make that person feel happy again.

You should **never feel scared** to tell someone about any worries you have.

Sometimes, you might not **see someone being abused**, but you might be **worried** about them. Or, you might think they are being abused by **someone you don't know**, or someone they have **told** you about. It's really important you **tell someone** even if you are worried, but haven't **seen** any abuse.



# 8

## What do I do if I am being abused?

The first thing you should do is **tell someone you trust**. This could be a family member, a friend or a teacher.

You can also **tell the person abusing you** to leave you alone. If telling them to leave you alone would **make you feel too scared or worried that they might hurt you**, make sure you **tell someone** so they can help.

You should **try not** to:

- **Do** what the person says.
- Let what the person says or does **upset** you.
- Get **angry** or hit them.

Always remember that if you are being abused, it is **not your fault** and you are **never alone**.

You shouldn't be scared to **talk to someone** if you are being abused. If you talk to a grownup, we can **make the abuse stop**.



## Who can I talk to?

It is important you **tell someone** as soon as you are being abused, or you notice someone else being abused.

Speaking to someone like your mum, dad, carer or teacher will mean that we can make sure the **abuse stops** and doesn't happen again.



In our school there are lots of people you can talk to if you feel worried about anything;

- ✚ Your classteacher
- ✚ Head of Year
- ✚ School Nurse
- ✚ Any adult in school who you feel comfortable talking too. The
- ✚ Safeguarding Team



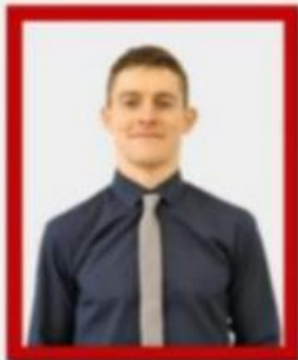
Mrs G Senior (Deputy Head)  
Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



Mr A MacIntyre (Assistant Head)  
Deputy Lead (DSL)



Mr D Martin (Assistant Head)  
Deputy Lead (DSL)



Mr A Lawlor  
Deputy Lead (DSL)



Ms T Clark  
Deputy Lead (DSL)





## How can I help stop abuse from happening?

We can all help stop abuse at our school by:

- Making sure we **understand** how we should **act** towards others.
- **Helping** others when they are in need.
- Being **kind, friendly** and **respectful** to others.
- Thinking about people's **feelings** before we say or do something.
- Taking part in **school activities**, like assemblies, PSHE lessons and circle time, which talk about peer-on-peer abuse.
- **Talking to someone** when we are worried.



You should know that hurting another person or any form of abuse is never OK and it is serious.

Golden rule for getting help is too;



If you are worried about something happening outside of school hours and you are not able to talk to someone in school at that time you can still get help!

Have a look at the ways you can do this;



### Kirkburton Middle School Website

- Don't forget there is lots of useful information on the school website which may help you. Spend some time having a look through the Pupil Welfare pages so you know what is available!

You can contact a member of the safeguarding team via the pupil welfare page at any time if you have any worries.