



Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children (under 18s)

(Also known as peer-on-peer abuse)

There is concern nationally relating to a culture of misogyny and sexual harassment in many schools.

Abingdon Learning Trust schools are aware that sexual violence and sexual abuse can happen anywhere, and our schools have a culture of 'it could happen here'.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment, meaning that it is never acceptable, and it will not be tolerated. It should never be passed off as "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys".

Children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer on peer abuse). This can happen both inside and outside of school and online. Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex, including primary school pupils.

It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are three times more likely to be abused than their peers.

Our schools use their PSHE lessons, assembly and tutor programmes to promote healthy and respectful relationships; celebrating difference, understanding of self-identity and how the body changes over time. Students and pupils are enabled to openly discuss issues and understand how to be respectful towards others.

Reporting incidents of sexual violence and harassment

Victims should be taken seriously, kept safe and never be made to feel like they are creating a problem for reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment.

Pupils and students can report any concerns regarding sexual violence or harassment to any trusted adult in their school. Staff will then report concerns promptly to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), or a deputy, (the DDSL) face to face. Schools will make decisions on a case-by-case basis, with the DSL or DDSL taking a leading role, being supported by other agencies, such as children's social care and the police as required.

Staff will refer to the school's Safeguarding Policy, particularly around how to manage a disclosure from a pupil or student. Schools recognise that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur online (either in isolation or in connection to offline incidents). Pupils and students can report online issues to any trusted adult in their school, and pupils and students are made aware of this. Parents or carers should normally be informed of any reported incidents (unless this would put the victim at greater risk).

Details of how to report concerns to each of the Trust's schools are below. Please click on the links:

[Safeguarding - John Mason School](#)

[Safeguarding - Fitzharrys School](#)

[Safeguarding and Prevent - Rush Common School](#)

The NSPCC provides a helpline for professionals at 0808 800 5000 and help@nspcc.org.uk The helpline provides expert advice and support for school staff.

Young people and adults can contact the NSPCC helpline, Report Abuse in Education on 0800 136 663 or email help@nspcc.org.uk