DISLEY
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Part of True Learning Partnership

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'PROUD TO BELONG'

CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE POLICY

Approvedby	Headteacher Governors	Date: November 26 Date: November 26
Last review	November 2025	
Next review	November 2027	

DISLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Child-on-Child Abuse Policy

Policy Statement

Disley Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We recognise that children can abuse other children and that child-on-child abuse can occur both inside and outside of school, online and offline.

We believe that:

- all children have the right to attend school and feel safe;
- child-on-child abuse is never acceptable and will never be dismissed as banter, harmless fun, part of growing up or simply having a laugh;
- abuse is abuse and should be taken seriously regardless of the age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion, culture or identity of those involved;
- all allegations and concerns will be taken seriously, investigated appropriately and acted upon proportionately;
- children who have experienced abuse will be supported;
- children who have caused harm will also receive appropriate support and intervention.

This policy should be read alongside the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy, Online Safety Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy.

Legislative Framework

This policy has regard to:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- The Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR

- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children Guidance (as incorporated within KCSIE)

Definition of Child-on-Child Abuse

Child-on-child abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional or harmful behaviour exercised between children.

This may include, but is not limited to:

Physical Abuse

- hitting
- kicking
- shaking
- biting
- hair pulling
- inappropriate physical restraint
- violence or intimidation

Bullying

Including:

- verbal bullying
- physical bullying
- emotional bullying
- cyberbullying
- prejudice-based bullying
- discriminatory bullying

Sexual Violence

Including:

- rape
- assault by penetration
- sexual assault

Sexual Harassment

Including:

- sexual comments
- sexual jokes
- sexualised name-calling
- unwanted physical contact
- online sexual harassment
- sharing sexual images
- displaying sexualised material

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

Developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour that may be:

- inappropriate
- problematic
- abusive
- violent

Sharing Nudes and Semi-Nudes

Including:

- creating
- possessing
- viewing
- sending
- sharing

sexual images of children.

Online Abuse

Including:

- cyberbullying
- online coercion

- sexual exploitation
- image-based abuse
- AI-generated sexual content
- deepfake imagery
- threatening or abusive communication

Abuse in Intimate Relationships

Including:

- coercive behaviour
- controlling behaviour
- emotional manipulation
- threats
- intimidation

Initiation or Hazing Behaviour

Any activity expected as part of joining a group which humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers others.

School Ethos

At Disley Primary School we maintain a culture where:

- children feel safe to report concerns;
- adults are vigilant;
- concerns are acted on immediately;
- children understand healthy relationships;
- respectful behaviour is modelled and expected;
- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We recognise that some children may be more vulnerable to abuse, including:

- children with SEND;
- children with communication needs;
- children with social care involvement;

- looked after and previously looked after children;
- LGBTQ+ children;
- children from minority ethnic communities.

Prevention

The school adopts a whole-school preventative approach through:

- **Curriculum**

Children are taught about:

- healthy relationships;
- consent and personal boundaries;
- respectful behaviour;
- online safety;
- appropriate use of technology;
- recognising abuse;
- reporting concerns.

These themes are delivered through:

- RSHE
- Computing
- Assemblies
- Safeguarding curriculum
- British Values education
- Everyday pastoral work
- **Behaviour Culture**

The school's Culture Charter, Behaviour Policy and restorative approaches reinforce:

- kindness
- respect
- inclusion

- responsibility
- belonging

Staff challenge inappropriate language and behaviour immediately.

Reporting Concerns

All members of staff must report concerns immediately.

Children may report concerns to:

- any member of staff;
- the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL);
- Deputy DSLs;
- trusted adults within school.

Parents and carers may report concerns directly to school.

No concern will be considered too small.

Recording Concerns

All concerns relating to child-on-child abuse must be recorded on **CPOMS** as soon as possible and on the same day.

Records should include:

- factual observations;
- direct quotes where possible;
- names of those involved;
- actions taken;
- referrals made;
- support provided.

CPOMS records must be clear, objective and contemporaneous.

Responding to Concerns

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will:

1. Assess Immediate Risk

Consider:

- risk to the victim;
- risk to other children;
- risk of repeat behaviour;
- safety within school.

Immediate protective measures may include:

- increased supervision;
- amended timetables;
- separation arrangements;
- alternative entrances, exits or break arrangements;
- enhanced pastoral support.

2. Gather Information

The DSL will:

- speak with involved children;
- consider witness information;
- review previous concerns;
- consult external agencies if required.

3. Determine Next Steps

Actions may include:

- monitoring;
- pastoral support;
- behaviour sanctions;
- safety planning;
- Early Help;
- social care referral;
- police involvement.

Supporting Children who have Experienced Harm

The welfare of the child who has experienced harm remains paramount.

Support may include:

- regular safeguarding check-ins;
- trusted adults;
- pastoral intervention;
- ELSA and/or MHST support;
- ongoing safety plans;
- adjustments within school.

The wishes, feelings and experiences of the child will be considered throughout.

Supporting Children who have Displayed Harmful Behaviour

Children who cause harm will also be supported.

Support may include:

- behaviour intervention;
- restorative work where appropriate;
- social skills development;
- family support;
- Early Help involvement;
- referral to external services.

The school recognises that children displaying harmful behaviour may themselves be vulnerable and in need of safeguarding support.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Disley Primary School adopts a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment.

Sexual violence and harassment are never:

- normal;

- acceptable;
- part of growing up;
- harmless banter.

All reports will be taken seriously and managed in accordance with KCSIE guidance.

The school will consider:

- the wishes of the victim;
- the nature of the incident;
- ages and developmental stages involved;
- risk to others;
- proportionality of response.

Online Abuse

The school recognises the increasing risk posed by online abuse.

This includes:

- cyberbullying;
- exploitation;
- coercion;
- image-sharing;
- AI-generated imagery;
- deepfakes;
- online harassment.

Children are taught how to report online concerns and seek help.

Where incidents occur outside school, the school will assess whether they present a safeguarding risk requiring school intervention.

Working with Parents and Carers

The school will normally inform parents and carers of children involved.

However, there may be occasions where consultation with Children's Social Care or Police means information must be withheld temporarily to protect a child.

The school will seek to work collaboratively with families wherever appropriate.

Multi-Agency Working

The school may work with:

- Children's Social Care;
- Police;
- Health services;
- Education Welfare Services;
- CAMHS;
- Early Help;
- Local Authority safeguarding teams.

Referrals will be made when the threshold for intervention is met.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis.

The school will comply with safeguarding and data protection requirements whilst recognising that child protection concerns take precedence where there is risk of harm.

Monitoring and Review

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will monitor:

- trends in incidents;
- vulnerable groups;
- effectiveness of interventions;
- recurring themes.

Anonymous information may be reported to Governors through safeguarding reports.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner where legislative changes require it.

Key Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Jake Nicklin

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Becky Adamson and Vicki Proctor

Safeguarding Governor: Ian Rush

School Contact: Disley Primary School