

ARNBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL 2020-2021

# PEER ON PEER (CHILD ON CHILD) ABUSE POLICY (INCLUDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT & VIOLENCE)



Mr. Fowlie

<u>Designated Safeguarding Lead</u>



Mrs. Kirkman



Mrs. Stringfellow

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

### **Contact Details**

Phone: 0115 9190199 Email: safeguarding@arnbrookprimary.net



Anne Hurt
Safeguarding Governor

TBC
Chair of Governors

Introduction

We are committed to a whole school approach to ensure the prevention, early identification and appropriate management of peer on peer abuse within our school and beyond.

Our school recognises that children are vulnerable to and capable of abusing their peers. We take such abuse as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult. This includes verbal as well as physical abuse. Peer on peer abuse will not be tolerated or passed off as part of "banter" or "growing up".

We recognise that peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways such as:

- 'bullying (including cyberbullying);
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault;
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- upskirting, (now a criminal offence) which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm;
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals'

In cases where peer on peer abuse is identified we will follow our child protection procedures, taking a contextual approach to support all children and young people who have been affected by the situation.

Some of these behaviours will need to be handled with reference to other policies in school such as the behaviour policy, anti-bullying policy, child protection policy and online safety policy.

This policy concentrates on peer on peer abuse in the context of sexual harassment and sexual violence. It is compliant with the statutory guidance on peer-on-peer abuse as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2020) and should be read in conjunction with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership's (LSCP) Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, and any relevant Practice Guidance issued by it.

Useful information from a range of sources related to peer on peer & child on child abuse can be found in Appendix 4.

### **Policy Development**

The policy has been developed in consultation with the school senior leaders, governors, staff, parents/carers and pupils, through focus groups and a consultation period.

#### **Aims**

#### The policy will:-

- Set out our strategies for preventing, identifying and managing peer on peer abuse
- Take a contextual approach to safeguarding all children and young people involved, acknowledging that children
  who have allegedly abused their peers or displayed harmful sexual behaviour are themselves vulnerable and
  may have been abused by peer, parents or adults in the community.

### **Understanding Peer on Peer abuse**

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer on peer abuse).

In cases where peer on peer abuse is identified we will follow our child protection procedures, taking a contextual approach to support all children and young people who have been affected by the situation.

Some of these behaviours will need to be handled with reference to other policies in school such as the behaviour policy, anti-bullying policy, child protection policy and online safety policy.

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<u>Sexual violence and sexual harassment</u> can occur between two children of any age and sex or a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Sexual harassment and sexual violence may also occur online and offline.

The impact of this behaviour on children can be very distressing and have an impact on academic achievement and emotional health and wellbeing.

#### The Context

All behaviour takes place on a spectrum. Understanding where a child's behaviour falls on a spectrum is essential to being able to respond appropriately to it.

In this policy we recognise the importance of distinguishing between problematic and abusive sexual behaviour (Harmful Sexual Behaviour - HSB).

We are adopting the NSPCC definition of HSB as:

"Sexual behaviours expressed by children...that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others, or be abusive towards another child...or adult."

Also considered is Simon Hackett's continuum model (Appendix 1) to demonstrate the range of sexual behaviours and the Brook Traffic Lights (Appendix 2). Appendix 5 contains the KCSIE guidance on sexual violence and harassment.

#### **Vulnerable groups**

We recognise that all children can be at risk however we acknowledge that some groups are more vulnerable. This can include: experience of abuse within their family; living with domestic violence young people in care; children who go missing; children with additional needs (SEN and/or disabilities). Children who identify or are perceived as LGBT, race, religion (protected characteristics).

Whist research tells is us girls are more frequently identified as being abused by their peers and, although girls are more likely to experience unwanted sexual touching in schools this is not confined to girls. In relation to sexual violence and/or harassment, evidence shows girls, children with SEND and LGBT children are at greater risk.

Boys are less likely to report intimate relationship abuse and may display other behaviour such as antisocial behaviour. Boys report high levels of victimisation in areas where they are affected by gangs. We recognise that both boys and girls experience peer on peer abuse but they may do so in gendered ways.

#### Responding to Alleged Incidents & Reports (including sexual violence and sexual harassment)

All reports of peer on peer abuse will be made on a case by case basis with the designated safeguarding lead or their deputy taking a leading role using their professional judgement and supported by other agencies such as social care or the police as required.

#### The immediate response to a report

- The school or college will take all reports seriously and will reassure the victim that and that they will be supported and kept safe.
- With all disclosures, but with particular regard to disclosures of sexual violence, abuse and/or harassment, is
   essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and
   kept safe. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by making a report. Nor
   should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- All staff will be trained to manage a report.
- Staff will not promise confidentiality as the concern will need to be shared further (for example, with the designated lead or social care) staff will however only share the report with those people who are necessary to progress it.
- A written report will be made as soon after the interview as possible recording the facts as presented by the child. These may be used as part of a statutory assessment if the case is escalated later.
- Where the report includes an online element the school or college will follow advice on searching screening and confiscation. The staff will not view or forward images unless unavoidable and only if another member of staff (preferably the DSL) is present.
- The DSL will be informed as soon as possible.

## Reporting

Children (victims and/or witnesses) are encouraged to report any such instances to 'a trusted adult' so it can be dealt with promptly. Children are given examples of trusted adults – class teacher, AHTs, Senior DSL & Deputy DSLs – and asked to think of more at school and home.

Similarly, parents and carers are encouraged to share any concerns with their child's class teacher, with the knowledge that they can also discuss any issues with their phase AHTs, other senior leaders or the head teacher. Information on how to report concerns is shared regularly via newsletters and online with the school community and around the school. There is also a confidential 'worry form' which can be completed on the school's website.

Supply staff or other visitors all agree to pass on any concerns related to children to a senior member of staff, when signing into the school upon entry.

As with any safeguarding concern, staff should log any allegations of peer on peer abuse straight away using MyConcern. If concern is urgent, inform Snr. DSL/Deputy DSL immediately and record on MyConcern. If you can't access MyConcern, write a written record on paper forms available from the school office and staff room safeguarding board (Appendix 6) and give to DSL/Deputy DSL immediately. If no forms are available, record your concern on paper with your name, signature and date.

Senior DSL and/or Deputy DSLs will assess the nature of concern and, where necessary involve relevant staff in responding to any concern/allegation. For example, class teacher, Assistant Headteacher, SENDCO, learning mentor.

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#### **Risk Assessment**

When there has been a report of sexual violence, the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will make an immediate risk and needs assessment. Where there has been a report of sexual harassment, the need for a risk assessment should be considered on a case-by-case basis. The risk and needs assessment should consider:

- The victim, especially their protection and support;
- The alleged perpetrator; and
- All the other children (and, if appropriate, adult students and staff) at the school, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them;

Risk assessments will be recorded (kept electronically) and be kept under review.

The senior designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) will ensure they are engaging with social services if appropriate.

### **Follow up Actions**

Things to consider:

- The wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed. This is especially important in the context of sexual violence and sexual harassment;
- The nature of the alleged incident(s), including: whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour;
- The ages of the children involved;
- The developmental stages of the children involved;
- Any power imbalance between the children. For example, is the alleged perpetrator significantly older, more mature or more confident? Does the victim have a disability or learning difficulty?
- If the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse;
- Are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students or school or college staff; and other related issues and wider context?

#### Actions to take & options to manage the report

In all cases, the initial report should be carefully evaluated, reflecting the considerations set out at paragraph 278 of KCSIE 2020 (DfE). The wishes of the victim, the nature of the allegations and the protection of all children in the school or college will be especially important when considering any immediate actions.

It is important that schools and colleges consider every report on a case-by-case basis as per paragraph 278. When to inform the alleged perpetrator will be a decision that should be carefully considered. Where a report is going to be made to children's social care and/or the police, then, as a general rule, the school or college should speak to the relevant agency and discuss next steps and how the alleged perpetrator will be informed of the allegations. However, as per general

safeguarding principles, this does not and should not stop the school or college taking immediate action to safeguard their children, where required.

The following options will be considered:

1. Manage internally. In some cases of sexual harassment, for example, one-off incidents, we may decide that the children concerned are not in need of early help or statutory intervention and that it would be appropriate to handle the incident internally, perhaps through utilising the behaviour and bullying policies and by providing pastoral support.

This decision will be made based on the principle that peer on peer abuse, and in particular sexual violence and sexual harassment, is never acceptable and will not be tolerated. All decisions, and discussions around making these decisions will be recorded and stored

- 2. In line with 1 above, we may decide that the children involved do not require statutory interventions, but may benefit from early help. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help can be particularly useful to address non-violent harmful sexual behaviour and may prevent escalation of sexual violence.
- 3. Where a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm, or is in immediate danger, we will make a referral to social care following locally agreed protocols and/or contact the police.

Where statutory assessments are appropriate, the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy will be working alongside, and cooperating with, the relevant lead social worker. Collaborative working will help ensure the best possible package of coordinated support is implemented for the victim and, where appropriate, the alleged perpetrator and any other children that require support.

Senior leader, usually the phase AHT or Behaviour Lead, will assume responsibility for conducting any necessary enquiries to the concern and then assume responsibility for recording of information. This may involve:

- Talking to all parties including target, perpetrator(s) and potential witnesses involved. Informing parents.
- Implementing appropriate disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. These should be graded according to the seriousness of the incident but should send out a message that the incident(s) is unacceptable
- Being clear that responses may also vary according to the 'things to consider' listed above and may involve other agencies where appropriate
- Following up, in particular keeping in touch with the person who reported the situation, parents/carers.
- Having a clear complaints' procedure for parents/carers who are not satisfied with the school's actions
- Having a range of follow- up responses and support appropriate to the situation for all involved such as solution focused, restorative approach, circle of friends, individual work with victim, perpetrator, bystanders and others affected by the incidents, referral to outside agencies if appropriate, including social care and the police.
- Liaising with the wider community if the incident(s) are taking place off the school premises i.e. in the case of cyberbullying or hate crime.

# Reporting to the Police

Any report to the police will generally be in parallel with a referral to children's social care (as above). The senior designated safeguarding lead (and their deputies) will follow local process for referrals. Reference to the document 'When to call the police' will be made to help designated safeguarding leads understand when they should consider calling the police and what to expect when they do.

Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, the starting point is this will be passed on to the police. Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is ten, if the alleged perpetrator is under ten, the starting principle of reporting to the police remains. The police will take a welfare, rather than a criminal justice, approach.

Where a report has been made to the police, the school or college will consult the police and agree what information can be disclosed to staff and others, in particular, the alleged perpetrator and their parents or carers. They will also discuss the best way to protect the victim and their anonymity.

Where there is a criminal investigation we will work closely with the relevant agencies to support all children involved (especially potential witnesses). Where required, advice from the police will be sought in order to help us.

Whilst protecting children and/or taking any disciplinary measures against the alleged perpetrator, we will work closely with the police (and other agencies as required), to ensure any actions the school takes do not jeopardise the police investigation.

## The end of the criminal process

If a child is convicted or receives a caution for a sexual offence, the school /academy will update its risk assessment, ensure relevant protections are in place for all children. We will consider any suitable action in light of our behaviour policy. If the perpetrator remains in school we will be very clear as to our expectations regarding the perpetrator now they have been convicted or cautioned. This could include expectations regarding their behaviour and any restrictions we think are reasonable and proportionate with regard to the perpetrator's timetable.

Any conviction (even with legal anonymity reporting restrictions) is potentially going to generate interest among other pupils or students in the school or college.

We will ensure all children involved are protected, especially from any bullying or harassment (including online).

Where cases are classified as "no further action" (NFA'd) by the police or Crown Prosecution Service, or where there is a not guilty verdict, we will continue to offer support to the victim and the alleged perpetrator for as long as is necessary. A not guilty verdict or a decision not to progress with their case will likely be traumatic for the victim. The fact that an allegation cannot be substantiated does not necessarily mean that it was unfounded. We will continue to support all parties in this instance.

#### Support for Children Affected by Sexual-Assault

Support for victims of sexual assault is available from a variety of agencies (see Appendix 3).

We will support the victim of sexual assault to remain in school but if they are unable to do so we will enable them to continue their education elsewhere. This decision will be made only at the request of the child and their family.

If they are moved we will ensure the new school is aware of the ongoing support they may need. The DSL will support this move.

Where there is a criminal investigation the alleged perpetrator will be removed from any shared classes with the victim and we will also consider how best to keep them a reasonable distance apart on the school premises or on school transport. This is in the best interest of the children concerned and should not be perceived to be a judgement of guilt before any legal proceedings. We will work closely with the police.

Where a criminal investigation into a rape or assault by penetration leads to a conviction or caution, we may take suitable action, if we have not already done so. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances, the rape or assault is likely to constitute a serious breach of discipline and lead to the view that allowing the perpetrator to remain in the same school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the victim (and potentially other pupils or students).

Where a criminal investigation into sexual assault leads to a conviction or caution, we may, if it has not already, consider any suitable sanctions in light of their behaviour policy, including consideration of permanent exclusion.

Where the perpetrator is going to remain at the school or college, the principle would be to continue keeping the victim and perpetrator in separate classes and continue to consider the most appropriate way to manage potential contact on school and college premises and transport. The nature of the conviction or caution and wishes of the victim will be especially important in determining how to proceed in such cases.

Reports of sexual assault and sexual harassment will, in some cases, not lead to a report to the police (for a variety of reasons). In some cases, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault or sexual harassment are reported to the police and the case is not progressed or are reported to the police and ultimately result in a not guilty verdict. None of this means the offence did not happen or that the victim lied. The process will have affected both victim and alleged perpetrator. Appropriate support will be provided to both as required and consideration given to sharing classes and potential contact as required on a case-by-case basis.

All of the above should be considered with the needs and wishes of the victim at the heart of the process (supported by parents and carers as required). Any arrangements should be kept under review.

## **Physical Abuse**

While a clear focus of peer on peer abuse is around sexual abuse and harassment, physical assaults and initiation violence and rituals from pupils to pupils can also be abusive.

These are equally not tolerated and if it is believed that a crime has been committed, will be reported to the police.

The principles from the anti-bullying policy will be applied in these cases, with recognition that any police investigation will need to take priority.

When dealing with other alleged behaviour which involves reports of, for example, emotional and/or physical abuse, staff can draw on aspects of Hackett's continuum (Appendix 1) to assess where the alleged behaviour falls on a spectrum and to decide how to respond. This could include, for example, whether it:

- · is socially acceptable
- involves a single incident or has occurred over a period of time
- is socially acceptable within the peer group
- · is problematic and concerning
- involves any overt elements of victimisation or discrimination e.g. related to race, gender, sexual orientation, physical, emotional, or intellectual vulnerability
- involves an element of coercion or pre-planning
- involves a power imbalance between the child/children allegedly responsible for the behaviour
- involves a misuse of power

#### Online Behaviour

Many forms of peer on peer abuse have an element of online behaviour including behaviours such as cyberbullying and sexting.

Policies and procedures concerning this type of behaviour can be found within the e-safety policy, behaviour policy, antibullying and safeguarding policy.

#### Prevention

Our school (actively seeks to raise awareness of and prevent all forms of peer-on-peer abuse by:

- Educating all Governors, Senior Leadership Team, staff and volunteers, [pupils/students], and parents about this issue. This will include training all Governors, Senior Leadership Team, staff and volunteers on the nature, prevalence and effect of peer-on-peer abuse, and how to prevent, identify and respond to it. This includes:
  - (a) Contextual Safeguarding & Extra-Familial Harm
  - (b) The identification and classification of specific behaviours; and
  - (c) The importance of taking seriously all forms of peer-on-peer abuse (no matter how low level they may appear) and ensuring that no form of peer-on-peer abuse is ever dismissed as horseplay or teasing.
- Educating children about the nature and prevalence of peer-on-peer abuse via PSHE and the wider curriculum.
- Pupils/Students are frequently told what to do if they witness or experience such abuse, the effect that it can have on those who experience it and the possible reasons for it, including vulnerability of those who inflict such abuse.
- They are regularly informed about the School's approach to such issues, including its zero tolerance policy towards all forms of peer-on-peer abuse.
- Engaging parents on this issue by:
  - (a) Talking about it with parents, both in groups and one to one;
  - (b) Asking parents what they perceive to be the risks facing their child and how they would like to see the school address those risks;
  - (c) Involving parents in the review of School policies and lesson plans; and
  - (d) Encouraging parents to hold the School to account on this issue.
- Ensuring that all peer-on-peer abuse issues are fed back to the School's Designated Safeguarding Leads so that they can ensure individual incidents are followed up and dealt with correctly. It will also be used to identify trends and inform preventative work in school and development of the policy. This information will be discussed by senior leaders on a half termly basis and data analysis shared with Full Governing Body every term.
- Challenging the attitudes that underlie such abuse (both inside and outside the classroom);
- Working with Governors, Senior Leadership Team, all staff and volunteers, pupils and parents to address equality issues, to promote positive values, and to encourage a culture of tolerance and respect amongst all members of the School community;
- Creating conditions in which our pupils can aspire to and realise safe and healthy relationships;
- Creating a culture in which our pupils feel able to share their concerns openly, in a non-judgmental environment, and have them listened to; and
- Responding to cases of peer-on-peer abuse promptly and appropriately.

# **Multi-agency working**

The School actively engages with its local partners in relation to peer-on-peer abuse, and works closely with, Nottinghamshire LSCP, children's social care, and/or other relevant agencies, and other schools.

The relationships the School has built with these partners are essential to ensuring that we are able to prevent, identify early and appropriately handle cases of peer-on-peer abuse. They help the school

- (a) To develop a good awareness and understanding of the different referral pathways that operate in its local area, as well as the preventative and support services which exist;
- (b) To ensure that our pupils are able to access the range of services and support they need quickly;
- (c) To support and help inform our local community's response to peer-on-peer abuse;

(d) to increase our awareness and understanding of any concerning trends and emerging risks in our local area to enable us to take preventative action to minimise the risk of these being experienced by our pupils.

The School actively refers concerns/allegations of peer-on-peer abuse where necessary to social care and/or other relevant agencies.

## **Understanding Serious Violence**

We recognize the indicators & risks of serious violence and ensure we have measures in place to manage these indicators. We also recognize the links between serious violence and peer-on-peer abuse, gang association, Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and County Lines. The following indicators may indicate a child is involved with serious violent crime:

- increased absence from school;
- a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups;
- a significant decline in performance;
- signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing;
- signs of assault or unexplained injuries.
- Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

If staff have any concerns that a child may be a victim, or potential victim, of serious violence, or that they have been approached by or are involved with individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs, they should act on them without delay by following our safeguarding procedures:

If you have a concern about a child's welfare, log this on MyConcern. If you can't or your concern is urgent, inform DSL and/or Deputy DSL immediately and write a written record on paper forms available from the school office and staff room safeguarding board.

Simon Hackett (2010) has proposed a continuum model to demonstrate the range of sexual behaviours presented by children and young people, from those that are normal, to those that are highly deviant:

Normal	Inappropriate	Problematic	Abusive	Violent
Developmentally expected	<ul> <li>Single instances of inappropriate sexual behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Problematic and concerning behaviours</li> </ul>	Victimising intent     or outcome	Physically violent sexual abuse
Socially acceptable	- Canially accountable	- Davidanmentally	Includes misuse	Highly intrusive
Consensual, mutual, reciprocal Shared decision making	Socially acceptable behaviour within peer group  Context for behaviour may be inappropriate  Generally consensual and reciprocal	Developmentally unusual and socially unexpected     No overt elements of victimisation     Consent issues may be unclear     May lack reciprocity or equal power     May include levels of compulsivity	of power  Coercion and force to ensure victim compliance  Intrusive  Informed consent lacking, or not able to be freely given by victim  May include elements of expressive violence	<ul> <li>Instrumental violence which is physiologically and/ or sexually arousing to the perpetrator</li> <li>Sadism</li> </ul>

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/publications/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework.pdf

# Brook sexual behaviours traffic light tool

# Behaviours: age 0 to 5

All green, amber and red behaviours require some form of attention and response. It is the level of intervention that will vary.

# What is a green behaviour?

Green behaviours reflect safe and healthy sexual development. They are displayed between children or young people of similar age or developmental ability. They are reflective of natural curiosity, experimentation, consensual activities and positive choices

# What can you do?

Green behaviours provide opportunities to give positive feedback and additional information.

#### **Green behaviours**

- holding or playing with own genitals
- attempting to touch or curiosity about other children's genitals
- attempting to touch or curiosity about breasts, bottoms or genitals of adults
- games e.g. mummies and daddies.
- · doctors and nurses
- enjoying nakedness
- interest in body parts and what they do
- curiosity about the differences between boys and girls

# What is an amber behaviour?

Amber behaviours have the potential to be outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be of potential concern due to age, or developmental differences. A potential concern due to activity type, frequency, duration or context in which they occur.

### What can you do?

Amber behaviours signal the need to take notice and gather information to assess the appropriate action.

#### Amber behaviours

- preoccupation with adult sexual
- behaviour

[Type here]

- pulling other children's pants down/skirts up/trousers down against their will
- talking about sex using adult slang
- •
- preoccupation with touching the genitals of other people
- following others into toilets or changing rooms to look at them or touch them
- talking about sexual activities seen on TV/online

# What is a red behaviour?

Red behaviours are outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be excessive, secretive, compulsive, coercive, degrading or threatening and involving significant age, developmental, or power differences. They may pose a concern due to the activity type, frequency, duration or the context in which they occur

## What can you do?

Red behaviours indicate a need for immediate intervention and action

#### **Red behaviours**

- persistently touching the genitals of other children
- persistent attempts to touch the genitals of adults
- simulation of sexual activity in play
- sexual behaviour between young children involving penetration with objects
- forcing other children to engage in sexual play

# Behaviours: age 5 to 9 and 9 to 13

All green, amber and red behaviours require some form of attention and response. It is the level of intervention that will vary.

# What is a green behaviour?

Green behaviours reflect safe and healthy sexual development. They are displayed between children or young people of similar age or developmental ability and reflective of natural curiosity, experimentation, consensual activities and positive choices

# What can you do?

Green behaviours provide opportunities to give positive feedback and additional information.

#### **Green behaviours 5-9**

- feeling and touching own genitals
- curiosity about other children's genitals
- curiosity about sex and relationships, e.g. differences between boys and girls, how sex happens, where babies come from, samesex relationships
- sense of privacy about bodies
- telling stories or asking questions using swear and slang words for parts of the body

#### **Green behaviours 9-13**

- solitary masturbation
- use of sexual language including swear and slang words
- having girl/boyfriends who are of the same, opposite or any gender
- interest in popular culture, e.g. fashion, music, media, online games, chatting online
- need for privacy
- consensual kissing, hugging, holding hands with peers

# What is an amber behaviour?

Amber behaviours have the potential to be outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be of potential concern due to age, or developmental differences. A potential concern due to activity type, frequency, duration or context in which they occur.

# What can you do?

Amber behaviours signal the need to take notice and gather information to assess the appropriate action.

#### Amber behaviours 5-9

- questions about sexual activity which persist or are repeated frequently, despite an answer having been given
- sexual bullying face to face or through texts or online messaging
- engaging in mutual masturbation
- persistent sexual images and ideas in talk, play and art
- use of adult slang language to discuss sex

### Amber behaviours 9-13

- uncharacteristic and risk-related behaviour, e.g. sudden and/or provocative changes in dress, withdrawal from friends, mixing with new or older people, having more or less money than usual, going missing
- verbal, physical or cyber/virtual sexual bullying involving sexual aggression
- LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) targeted bullying
- exhibitionism, e.g. flashing or mooning
- giving out contact details online
- viewing pornographic material
- worrying about being pregnant or having STIs

# What is a red behaviour?

Red behaviours are outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be excessive, secretive, compulsive, coercive, degrading or threatening and involving significant age, developmental or power differences. They may pose a concern due to the activity type, frequency, duration or the context in which they occur

#### What can you do?

Red behaviours indicate a need for immediate intervention and action.

#### Red behaviours 5-9

- frequent masturbation in front of others
- sexual behaviour engaging significantly younger or less able children
- forcing other children to take part in

- · sexual activities
- simulation of oral or penetrative sex
- sourcing pornographic material online

#### Red behaviours 9-13

- exposing genitals or masturbating in public
- distributing naked or sexually provocative images of self or others
- · sexually explicit talk with younger
- children
- sexual harassment
- arranging to meet with an online acquaintance in secret
- genital injury to self or others
- forcing other children of same age, younger or less able to take part in sexual activities
- sexual activity e.g. oral sex or intercourse
- presence of sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- evidence of pregnancy

# Behaviours: age 13 to 17

All green, amber and red behaviours require some form of attention and response. It is the level of intervention that will vary.

# What is a green behaviour?

Green behaviours reflect safe and healthy sexual development. They are displayed between children or young people of similar age or developmental ability and reflective of natural curiosity, experimentation, consensual activities and positive choices

# What can you do?

Green behaviours provide opportunities to give positive feedback and additional information.

#### **Green behaviours**

- solitary masturbation
- sexually explicit conversations with peers
- obscenities and jokes within the current cultural norm
- interest in erotica/pornography
- use of internet/e-media to chat online
- having sexual or non-sexual relationships
- sexual activity including hugging, kissing, holding hands
- consenting oral and/or penetrative sex with others of the same or opposite gender who are of similar age and developmental ability
- choosing not to be sexually active

# What is an amber behaviour?

Amber behaviours have the potential to be outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be of potential concern due to age, or developmental differences. A potential concern due to activity type, frequency, duration or context in which they occur.

# What can you do?

Amber behaviours signal the need to take notice and gather information to assess the appropriate action.

### **Amber behaviours**

- accessing exploitative or violent pornography
- uncharacteristic and risk-related behaviour, e.g. sudden and/or provocative changes in dress,
- withdrawal from friends, mixing with new or older people, having

more or less money than usual, going missing

- · concern about body image
- taking and sending naked or sexually provocative images of self or others
- single occurrence of peeping, exposing, mooning or obscene gestures
- giving out contact details online
- joining adult- only social networking sites and giving false personal information
- arranging a face to face meeting with an online contact alone

 receipt of gifts or money in exchange for sex

# What is a red behaviour?

Red behaviours are outside of safe and healthy behaviour. They may be excessive, secretive, compulsive, coercive, degrading or threatening and involving significant age, developmental or power differences. They may pose a concern due to the activity type, frequency, duration or the context in which they occur

#### What can you do?

Red behaviours indicate a need for immediate intervention and action.

## **Red behaviours**

- exposing genitals or masturbating in public
- preoccupation with sex, which interferes with daily function
- sexual degradation/humiliation of self or others
- attempting/forcing others to expose genitals
- sexually aggressive/exploitative behaviour
- sexually explicit talk with younger children
- sexual harassment
- · non-consensual sexual activity
- use of/acceptance of power and control in sexual relationships
- genital injury to self or others
- sexual contact with others where there
- is a big difference in age or ability
- sexual activity with someone in authority and in a position of trust
- sexual activity with family members
- involvement in sexual exploitation and/or trafficking
- · sexual contact with animals

This is intended to be used as a guide only. Please refer to the guidance tool at https://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool for further information

Print date: 01/10/2015 - Brook has taken every care to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate and up-to-date at the time of being published. As information and knowledge is constantly changing, readers are strongly advised to use this information for up to one month from print date. Brook accepts no responsibility for difficulties that may arise as a result of an individual acting on the advice and recommendations it contains.

Brook sexual behaviours traffic light tool adapted from Family Planning Queensland. (2012). Traffic Lights guide to sexual behaviours. Brisbane: Family Planning Queensland, Australia.

Support for Young People: Local and National

Nottinghamshire Children and Young People's Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ChilVAs) provided by IMARA provide emotional and practical support for victims of sexual violence. They are based within the specialist sexual violence sector and will help the victim understand what their options are and how the criminal justice process works if they have reported or are considering reporting to the police. ChISVAs will work in partnership with schools and colleges to ensure the best possible outcomes for the victim.

http://www.imara.org.uk/about us/chisva-service

• Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)

www.nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/cahms

• Rape Crisis Centre's can provide therapeutic support for children over 13 who have experienced sexual violence.

www.nottsssvss.org.uk

Internet Watch Foundation (to potentially remove illegal images)

www.iwf.org.uk

• Upskirting – know your rights

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/upskirting-know-your-rights

#### **Useful Publications and Websites**

#### **Government Publications**

Sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools

www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges

Keeping Children safe in Education

www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education—2

Preventing youth violence and gang involvement

www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-schools-and-colleges-on-gangs-and-youth-violence

Preventing and tackling bullying in schools

www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

#### Other useful documents

Sexting

Sexting in schools and colleges-Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/6098 74/6 2939 SP NCA Sexting In Schools FINAL Update Jan17.pdf

Peer-on-peer abuse

Farrer&Co - Peer-on-peer abuse toolkit, guidance on peer-on peer abuse policy and template peer-on-peer abuse policy

www.farrer.co.uk/Global/Peer-on-peer%20abuse%20toolkit%2014.pdf

Anti-bullying alliance

There are some useful links on the section on sexual bullying:-

Sexual bullying: developing effective anti-bullying practice- A guide for school staff and other professional

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachment/Sexual%20bullying%20-%20anti-bullying%20guidance%20for%20teachers%20and%20other%20professionals%20-%20Feb17 1.pdf

Preventing abuse among children and young people-guidance from Stop it Now

www.stopitnow.org.uk/files/stop booklets childs play preventing abuse among children and young people01\_14.pdf

What is Age appropriate?

http://www.stopitnow.org/ohc-content/what-is-age-appropriate

**Brook Traffic lights** 

https://www.brook.org.uk/our-work/using-the-sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool

NSPCC-Harmful sexual behaviour

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/harmful-sexual-behaviour/

NCB Harmful sexual behaviour

https://www.ncb.org.uk/resources-publications/resources/workforce-perspectives-harmful-sexual-behaviour

NSPCC –Is this sexual abuse?

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/nspcc-helplines-report-peer-sexual-abuse.pdf

Online sexual harassment

Project deSHAME- Digital Exploitation and Sexual Harassment Amongst Minors in Europe Understanding, Preventing, Responding

https://www.childnet.com/our-projects/project-deshame

Sexism

It's Just Everywhere- a study on sexism in schools -and how we tackle it

https://ukfeminista.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Report-Its-just-everywhere.pdf

## KCSIE 2020 (DfE) guidance on Sexual Violence & Harassment

What is sexual violence and sexual harassment?

Sexual violence

When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual violence offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as described below:

Rape: A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Assault by Penetration: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Sexual Assault: A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

See Sexual Offences Act 2003 available at legislation.gov.uk

What is consent?

Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs. Someone consents to vaginal, anal or oral penetration only if s/he agrees by choice to that penetration and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice.

#### Sexual harassment

When referring to sexual harassment we mean 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline. When we reference sexual harassment, we do so in the context of child on child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names;
- sexual "jokes" or taunting;
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone's clothes (schools and colleges should be considering when any of this crosses a line into sexual violence it is important to talk to and consider the experience of the victim) and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature; and
- online sexual harassment. This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence.114 It may include:
  - non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos:
  - sexualised online bullying;
  - unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media;
  - sexual exploitation; coercion and threats; and
  - · upskirting.

# Upskirting

The Voyeurism (Offences) Act, which is commonly known as the Upskirting Act, came into force on 12 April 2019. 'Upskirting' is where someone takes a picture under a persons clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.

## KCSIE 2020 (DfE)

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country (county lines, see page 85 for more information), forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people.

Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- · children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. It can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media).

The above CCE indicators can also be indicators of CSE, as can:

- · children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends; and
- children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant.

# County lines

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of "deal line".

Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children and vulnerable adults exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, special educational needs schools, children's homes and care homes. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations and are known to be exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are

concealed internally to avoid detection. Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

One of the ways of identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes (both from home and school), when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism 103 should be considered. If a child is suspected to be at risk of or involved in county lines, a safeguarding referral should be considered alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation.