

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2021



ST ANTHONY'S
VC ACADEMY

CPOMS

When entering an alert on CPOMS can you ensure that you use the following guidelines:

- Use full names, not staff codes
- After the name include their role
- Avoid abbreviations- they can be confusing
- Keep to facts and actions
- Don't just post on CPOMS about an injury, relevant staff must be informed directly too.
- Avoid posting conversations
- Think about who needs to see the post. CPOMS

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM PEER-ON-PEER SEXUAL ABUSE

Peer-on-peer abuse is sexual abuse that happens between children of a similar age or stage of development. It can happen between any number of children and can affect any age group.

(Department for Education (DfE), 2021 a)

It can be harmful to the children who display it as well as those who experience it.

Children can experience pee-on-peer sexual abuse in a wide range of settings, including:

- **At school**
- **At home or in someone else's home**
- **In public spaces**
- **Online**

It can be difficult to work out if a child is displaying appropriate, inappropriate, problematic, or abusive sexual behaviour.

KEY MESSAGES

LANYARDS

Lanyards must be worn at all times when you are on school site.

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

You will soon receive log on details for our new safeguarding training portal.

DISCLOSURE

IF a student makes a disclosure to you:

- **Listen**
- **Make detailed notes**
- **Alert the safeguarding team**



**DESIGNATED
SAFEGUARDING LEAD**

MRS CARRIE BARLEY



**DEPUTY DESIGNATED
SAFEGUARDING LEAD**

MISS MARLEIGH WALKER

PEER-ON-PEER SEXUAL ABUSE

Examples of sexually abusive behaviour may include:

- Inappropriate or unwanted sexualised touching
- Pressurising, forcing or coercing others to perform or take part in sexual acts
- Pressuring, forcing or coercing someone to share nude images (sexting)
- Sharing sexual images of a person without their consent
- Taking a picture under a person's clothing, without their consent ('upskirting')
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual or sexist name calling

Children's understanding of peer-on-peer sexual abuse

Children may not always understand that they have experienced or carried out peer-on-peer sexual abuse.

This might be because:

- They don't understand what constitutes appropriate, problematic, or abusive sexualised behaviour
- They have experienced sexual abuse themselves and don't realise that what happened to them was wrong.
- They don't know whether consent was given
- The abuse happened between friends or partners
- The abuse took place online
- They blame themselves for the abuse they received
- Younger children lack knowledge of sex and sexuality as they are less likely to have received any relationships and sex education.

“

SOME CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE VIEWED PORNOGRAPHY MAY TRY TO EMULATE WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN
(MARTELLOZZO ET AL, 2016)

“

SOME CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE ABUSE MAY BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED ABUSE OVER TIME, AS THEY GROW OLDER AND LEARN MORE ABOUT SEX AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.
(NSPCC, 2018)

“

Signs that a child has experienced per-on-peer sexual abuse:

Indicators that a child has experienced peer-on-peer sexual abuse may be physical or behavioural.

A child or young person may appear withdrawn, frightened or begin to act differently from usual.

Barriers to disclosure

Children do not always feel able to speak out about their experiences of peer-on-peer sexual abuse.

They may be afraid of:

- Being considered a 'snitch' or getting in trouble
- How they will be perceived by others
- Teachers or other adults not being discrete
- Their parents being informed

Helping children speak out

Children might not feel able to talk to adults about peer-on-peer sexual abuse. But there are things you can do to make it easier.

- Children may feel more confident speaking out if they have a positive, trusting relationship with a trusted adult. This can be done by encouraging them to share their thoughts and opinions, responding to their concerns, respecting, and listening to them
- If children can see a culture within OUR school that challenges inappropriate behaviour, they may feel more confident that any concerns they raise will be responded to appropriately.

