

Policy: Managing Allegations
Against Other Pupils Policy
SACC approval: November 2024
Ratified FGB: November 2024
Review: November 2027

Holy Trinity Church of England (VA) Primary School



Believe • Achieve • Inspire •

Managing Allegations Against Other Pupils Policy **(child on child abuse)**

SCHOOL VISION

At Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School our Christian vision shapes all we do.

*"I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live."
Ecclesiastes 3:12.*

Our vision is to be an inspirational place of learning where:

- we facilitate opportunities so every child can flourish in a place where they feel safe, **happy and confident**.
- staff **well-being** and professional development is valued and supported in order to fulfil their roles, inspire others and experience personal **fulfilment**.
- the school provides facilities that enables an **optimum learning environment**.
- the **school plays a central role within our community** and enjoys strong **links with the church, local companies and other schools**.
- we create a culture of vigilance to safeguard all children.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mrs Jo Griffith

Deputy DSLs: Mrs Carmel Barnes, Mrs Fiona Fargher and Miss Stacey Harding

The school governors for Safeguarding and Child Protection are Rev'd Jon Hutchinson & Mrs Aileen Boaler

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POLICY AIMS

- To provide an environment in which children and young people feel safe, secure, valued and respected, feel confident and know how to approach adults if they are in difficulties.
- To raise the awareness of all teaching and non-teaching staff of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse and preventing extremism.
- To provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we, the school, contribute to assessments of need and support plans for those children.
- To develop a structured procedure within the school that will be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected abuse.

At Holy Trinity CE Primary School, we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other pupils.

We recognise that some students will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy.

Safeguarding allegations

Occasionally, allegations may be made against students by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation. It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a pupil, some of the following features may be found.

The allegation:

- is made against an older pupil and refers to their behaviour towards a younger pupil or a more vulnerable pupil
- is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- raises risk factors for other pupils in the school
- indicates that other pupils may have been affected by this pupil
- indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this pupil

Examples of safeguarding issues against a student could include:

- physical abuse
- cyberbullying
- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to use drugs or alcohol or sell drugs or alcohol
- emotional abuse
- blackmail or extortion
- threats and intimidation
- sexual abuse including sexting
- indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults
- forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting
- sexual exploitation
- encouraging other children to attend inappropriate parties
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts
- imposing extremist views or terrorism activities to promote radicalisation

In exceptional circumstances, older students may attempt to exploit younger pupils using any or all of the above methods. Young people suffering from sexual exploitation themselves may be forced to recruit other young people under threat of violence.

Minimising the risk of safeguarding concerns towards pupils from other students.

On occasion, some pupils may present a safeguarding risk to other pupils. The school should be informed by the relevant agency that the young person raises a safeguarding concern. These pupils will need an individual risk management plan to ensure that other pupils are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations.

What to do

- When an allegation is made by a pupil against another student, members of staff should consider whether the complaint raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection (DSL) should be informed.
- A factual record should be made of the allegation on CPOMS, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances.
- The DSL should contact Children's Social Care to discuss the case. It is possible that CSC is already aware of safeguarding concerns around this young person. The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a referral where appropriate.
- The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and upload to CPOMS.

If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police should be contacted to determine the best course of action and when or if necessary parents notified (of both the pupil being complained about and the alleged victim). The conduct of this would be dealt with sensitively and under the guidance of professionals.

- It may be appropriate to suspend the pupil being complained about for a period of time according to the school's Behaviour Policy and procedures.
- Where neither CSC nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual disciplinary procedures.
- In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan.
- The plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.

This policy forms part of safeguarding and should be read in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Prevent Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Exclusion and Suspension Policy
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Keeping Children Safe in Education

This policy was adopted by Holy Trinity CE Primary School and agreed by the Standards, Achievements and Curriculum Committee and ratified by the Full Governing Board.

Approved by.....on behalf of the School Governing Board.

Signature:.....

Date:.....