

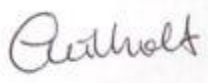



# Child on Child Abuse

## Policy Review

Review Cycle:	Date of Current Policy:	Author(s) of Current Policy:	Review Date
Annually	June 2023	K Windsor	June 2024

## Policy Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Gayle Willmott		28/06/2023
Principal	Emma Reynolds		28/06/2023

## Details of Policy Updates

Date	Details
June 2023	No Changes to 2022 version

## Contents

Child on Child Abuse.....	0
1. Aims.....	2
2. Definitions .....	2
3. Purpose .....	3
4. Legislation and relevant documentation .....	3
5. Scope.....	4
6. Roles and Responsibilities .....	4
7. Training.....	5
8. Procedures to minimise child on child abuse .....	6
9. Responding to concerns or disclosures of child on child abuse .....	6
10. Local Arrangements and Making Referrals .....	8
11. Record-keeping .....	8
12. Parent(s) and Carer(s) .....	8
Appendix A: Further Resources.....	9

# 1. Aims

- 1.1 Frome College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We recognise that children may face different forms of abuse and we work together to protect children from harm. As well as being abused by adults, children can be abused by other young people. The College is committed to preventing abuse and will protect children that may be suffering, or at risk of suffering harm perpetrated by another child. We recognize that child on child abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”.  
We maintain an attitude of ‘it could happen here’ and act in the best interests of the child at all times.

# 2. Definitions

- 2.1 The following terms and associated definitions will be used throughout this policy.
- **‘Staff’ or ‘members of staff’** refers to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff, governors, and volunteers working in or on behalf of the College.
  - **Child/children** refers to any student within the College. A student over 18, may have adjustments made, this would be clearly documented.
  - **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children** is defined as; protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
  - **Child on child abuse (or abuse)** refers to any scenario where a child under the age of 18 abuses another child under the age of 18. It can take place online or offline. We would consider any student at the College to be a child. The children involved do not have to be the same age and the perpetrator may be older or younger than the victim. Child on child abuse (or abuse) could include (but is not limited to);
    - 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;
    - up skirting, 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.
    - abuse within intimate personal relationships and/or teenage relationship abuse

### **3. Purpose**

3.1 This policy has been written to

- ensure that the College follows all statutory guidance and advice relating to child-on-child abuse.
- provide stakeholders with information about how Frome College works to prevent child on child abuse.
- provide stakeholders with information about how Frome College responds to concerns, disclosures and/or allegations relating to child-on-child abuse;
- provide stakeholders with information about how Frome College continues to support victims of child-on-child abuse following the conclusion of an investigation.

### **4. Legislation and relevant documentation**

4.1 This policy adheres to and must be read alongside the College Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

4.2 All staff and stakeholders should also refer to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in relation to any safeguarding matters or concerns.

4.3 This policy is part of a suite of College policies relating to safeguarding and child protection. For further details, please see:

- Behaviour Policy and Procedures
- Equal Opportunity Policy
- Looked After Children Policy
- PSHCE Policy
- Sex and Relationships Education Policy
- Online Safety Policy

4.4 This policy adheres to all statutory guidance and legislation, including (but not limited to):

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Data Protection Act (2018)
- General Data Protection Regulations

4.5 The College will also refer to the government guidance documents 'Sexual Violence and Sexual harassment between children in Schools and Colleges (September 2021)' and 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation (January 2018)' advice when managing reports or disclosures of child on child abuse of a sexual nature.

4.6 Rather than duplicating content from Keeping Children Safe in Education in this policy, it should be understood that Frome College will always refer to this document and its updates as the benchmark for all safeguarding practice.

## **5. Scope**

- 5.1 This policy applies to all teaching, non-teaching, support, supply, peripatetic, contract staff, governors, and volunteers working in or on behalf of Frome College. All references in this document to 'staff' or 'members of staff' should be interpreted as relating to the aforementioned unless otherwise stated.
- 5.2 This policy has been developed by Kirsten Windsor (Vice Principal) in consultation with Vicky West (Assistant Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead) and the Frome College Board of Governors.

## **6. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **6.1 Role of the Governors**

#### **6.1.1 The governors will:**

- Uphold all responsibilities under the College Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education and any other relevant statutory guidance.
- Ensure that the College's safeguarding and child protection policy includes all relevant information as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Ensure that policies (including this policy), procedures and training in the College are effective and comply with the law at all times.

### **6.2 Role of the Principal**

#### **6.2.1 The Principal will:**

- Uphold all responsibilities under the College safeguarding and child protection policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education and any other relevant safeguarding statutory guidance and legislation.
- ensure that this policy and all other relevant policies are followed by all staff.
- liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead about ongoing enquiries, particularly those under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
- Ensure that the College curriculum includes education opportunities to minimise incidents of child-on-child abuse.
- Ensure that the College site promotes positive behaviour and minimizes the opportunity for child-on-child abuse.
- Safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

## **6.3 Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the deputies (Safeguard team)**

### **6.3.1 The Safeguard team will:**

- Uphold all responsibilities under the College Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education and any other relevant safeguarding statutory guidance and legislation.
- Undertake any training required to uphold their post and the responsibilities outlined in this policy.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for staff in relation to child-on-child abuse.
- Manage disclosures of and concerns about child-on-child abuse.
- Make referrals to Children's Services and the police as appropriate.
- Ensure that this policy is known, understood and used appropriately by all staff.
- Safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the teaching profession as part of their professional duties.

## **6.4 Role of all staff**

### **6.4.1 All staff will:**

- Uphold all responsibilities under the College safeguarding and child protection policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education and any other relevant safeguarding statutory guidance and legislation.
- Use My Concern to record cases where they suspect cases of child-on-child abuse or become aware of cases of child-on-child abuse. Any that require immediate action have to be reported in person to the safeguard team and followed up on My Concern.
- Be made aware that children can abuse other children and the forms that this abuse could take.
- Be clear as to the College policy and procedures on child-on-child abuse.
- Be made aware that abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".
- Receive training in how to respond appropriately to incidents of 'sexting'. Where incidents involve sexting or indecent images of children, members of staff will not view, download, print or share images. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should be made aware of the incident immediately.

## **7. Training**

**7.1** The College will ensure that all staff have been trained to recognise and respond to child-on-child abuse.

**7.2** Frome College Safeguarding training takes place at least once every academic year. Staff who join the College after this training has taken place receive Safeguarding training as part of their induction.

**7.3** We recognise the gendered nature of child-on-child abuse. However, all staff will be trained to understand that all child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

## **8. Procedures to minimise child on child abuse**

8.1 The College have a responsibility to minimise opportunities for child on child abuse. We do this by:

- Training staff on the forms of child-on-child abuse, what should be reported and including risk factors.
- Train staff on reporting abuse such as prejudice, discrimination and bullying (including online bullying).
- Ensure that the PSHE curriculum includes teaching around sex and relationships (including consent and healthy relationships), prejudice and discrimination and online safety.
- Offer drop-in sessions for parents and carers to find out more about the PSHCE curriculum
- Find opportunities to regularly promote where students can go if they have a problem, who the key staff are and signpost external support.
- Finding opportunities for Student Voice i.e. Student Council and Student Surveys to ensure they know where to go or to identify common themes.
- Ensure that the College has a culture of positive behaviour and that all staff know how to use the behaviour policy.

8.2 We recognise that some children may be more vulnerable to child-on-child abuse than others. For example, children who have already experienced abuse, those that have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), children living in care and children who are LGBTQ+ and/or have other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 may be more likely to face child on child abuse than other children. We work to protect children with additional vulnerabilities by ensuring they have a safe place as well as a safe person that they or others can report to.

## **9. Responding to concerns or disclosures of child on child abuse**

9.1 The College takes child on child abuse seriously and will respond to all concerns or disclosures of child on child abuse.

9.2 Upon receiving a concern, report or disclosure of abuse, the Safeguard team will decide what further action is necessary. This will vary depending on the type of child-on-child abuse and the severity of the incident/s disclosed. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will take contextual factors into account when managing the report.

9.3 The Safeguard team will always consider the following;

- the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed. The victims will be given as much control as is reasonably possible over decisions regarding how any investigation will be progressed and any support that they will be offered
- the nature of the alleged incident(s), including: the level of coercion or threat, whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour
- both the chronological and developmental ages of the children involved

- any power imbalance between the children, including consideration of the age of children and whether children have special educational needs or disabilities
- the impact on the victim
- if the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse; and
- if there are ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students or College or college staff.

#### 9.4 Depending on the nature of the incident/s, the team may

- Seek further information from those involved and witnesses.
- Undertake a risk assessment to ascertain steps necessary to safeguard the victim, alleged perpetrator, adults and other children.
- Decide to manage the concern internally.
- Organise a meeting with relevant staff and agencies to assess risk and agree a safety plan.
- Refer the victim and/or the perpetrator to local services for Early Help /Children's Services and or the police
- Liaise with outside agencies e.g. social workers working with children involved (if applicable).

### 9.5 Supporting the victim

- 9.6.1 The College recognises that child on child abuse has a significant impact on young people and victims are likely to need ongoing support.
- 9.6.2 Appropriate support will be put in place for the victims of child-on-child abuse whilst investigation is taking place and following the initial response. Support will continue for as long as it is needed and will be reviewed regularly to ensure the victim is receiving appropriate care.
- 9.6.3 The College will do everything we can to maintain the victim's normal routine.
- 9.6.4 The College will do everything we can to protect the victim from further bullying and harassment as a result of their disclosure.
- 9.6.5 If a victim of child on child abuse moves to a new setting, the Safeguard team will share the necessary information to ensure that support for the child continues.

### 9.7 Supporting the alleged perpetrator

- 9.7.1 The College has a responsibility to ensure that an alleged perpetrator continues to receive a suitable education and will consider a range of options in continuing educational provision. Options may include:
  - Alternative Provision
  - A Managed Move
- 9.7.2 We recognise that children who perpetrate child on child abuse may be being abused themselves. The College will continue to safeguard the alleged perpetrator and provide them with support.
- 9.7.3 A plan to reduce the risk posed by the alleged perpetrator will be put in place as part of the risk assessment made following the alleged abuse.
- 9.7.4 If the alleged perpetrator moves to another setting, the Safeguard team will share information as necessary to safeguard the individual and other child at the new setting.

- 9.8 The Safeguard team will take advice from children's social care, specialist services and the police as necessary.



9.9 The College may choose to impose a sanction or punishment on the alleged perpetrator following an incident of child-on-child abuse. In this case, we will follow the College Behaviour Policy in determining the level and severity of sanction.

9.10 Where a child is cautioned or receives a conviction related to an incident of child-on-child abuse, the College will follow the advice and guidance provided on a case by case basis.

## **10. Local Arrangements and Making Referrals**

10.1 The College adheres to local safeguarding arrangements, as outlined by the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership.

10.2 For further details of how the College works with partner agencies regarding safeguarding , please see the College's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

## **11. Record-keeping**

11.1 Members of staff will follow the procedures for recording a disclosure outlined in the College's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy using My Concern.

## **12. Parent(s) and Carer(s)**

12.1 Parent(s) and carer(s) will be informed of incidents unless sharing information puts a child at greater risk of harm.

12.3 Children will always be encouraged to speak to parent(s) or carer(s) about child-on-child abuse themselves with support from staff if necessary.

## Appendix A: Further Resources

The College use a range of resources (in addition to those referenced in the main body of the policy) to support in minimising child on child abuse, training staff and responding to concerns or disclosures. This appendix details some of these additional documentation.

### **Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool**

<https://www.brook.org.uk/training/wider-professional-training/sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool/>

### **Harmful sexual behaviour between children and young people, NICE**

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng55>

### **NSPCC Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework**

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1657/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework.pdf>

### **Preventing and Tackling Bullying Advice (2017), HM Government**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/623895/Preventing\\_and\\_tackling\\_bullying\\_advice.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/623895/Preventing_and_tackling_bullying_advice.pdf)

### **What to do if you are worried a child is being abused (2015), HM Government**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419604/What to do if you re worried a child is being abused.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

### **Sexting: How to respond to an incident. An overview for all teaching and non-teaching staff in Colleges and colleges, UKCCIS**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/647389/Overview of Sexting Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/647389/Overview_of_Sexting_Guidance.pdf)

### **Sexting in Colleges and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people UKCIS**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/759007/6\\_2939\\_SP\\_NCA\\_Sexting\\_In\\_Colleges\\_FINAL\\_Update\\_Jan17.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759007/6_2939_SP_NCA_Sexting_In_Colleges_FINAL_Update_Jan17.pdf)

### **College Exclusion Statutory Guidance (including changes to the exclusion process during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/College-exclusion>

### **Harmful Sexual Behaviour Procedures, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership**

[http://northamptonshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p\\_sexually\\_harm\\_behav.html](http://northamptonshirescb.proceduresonline.com/p_sexually_harm_behav.html)

### **Behaviour and discipline in Colleges (2016), Department for Education**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-Colleges>