St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Child-Friendly Child on Child Abuse Policy

We grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus

At the time of publishing the following roles were held:	
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Feeling safe and happy at school

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, we want to make sure that you feel looked after, safe and happy when you are in and out of school.

Sometimes we don't know if something bad is happening, so you need to tell us.

This policy looks at child-on-child abuse, and what you can do when you feel you are being abused, or when you notice someone else being abused.

We can help you by:

- Teaching you what child-on-child abuse is.
- Teaching you what to do if you feel like you are being abused, or if someone else is being abused.
- Making sure you know who you can speak to if you are worried.



1 What is child-on-child abuse?

A **child** is someone who might be your friend, a child at school with you, or another child you may know.

Abuse is something which usually physically or emotionally **hurts** another person by using behaviour that is meant to **scare**, **hurt** or **upset** that person.

Child-on-child abuse can happen inside and outside of school – it can happen online or in-person, and it is important to let an adult know if you think you or someone else is being affected by child-on-child abuse.

Remember to **ask a teacher** if you are unsure about what child-on-child abuse looks like.

It is not always easy to identify abuse when it is coming from someone you know, such as a friend or a classmate, but it is really **important** to look out for the signs of child-on-child abuse and **report it** so that we can make sure it stops.

2 Bullying

Bullying is a type of abuse that takes place when someone tries to hurt another person on purpose. People can be bullied in many different ways:

Emotional bullying includes hurting someone's feelings, by leaving them out or bossing them about. People can sometimes use emotional bullying to take advantage of you to get their own way by making threats or making you feel like you have to do something for them.

Physical bullying can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or purposely hurting someone.

Verbal bullying can include insulting someone because of how they look or because of their personality, and can often go beyond that. People can also use verbal bullying to be **racist, sexist** or **homophobic**.

Racist bullying is bullying someone because of their race, skin colour, the country they are from or the religion they believe in.



Homophobic bullying means bullying someone because of their sexuality; calling someone gay or lesbian to hurt their feelings would be homophobic.

Sexist bullying is bullying someone because of their gender; bullying someone because they are a boy or a girl would be sexist.

Cyberbullying includes any kind of bullying which takes place online; cyberbullies send insulting messages over the internet and sometimes share secret information online to hurt someone's feelings.



Bullying is not always done by one person and can often involve a group of people 'ganging up' on someone – if you ever see someone being bullied, **never** join in and **always** tell a teacher.

3 Sexting

Sexting is sending **inappropriate pictures, videos or messages** – they can sometimes be called 'nudes', 'nude pics' or 'rude pics', but can also be rude messages.



Pressuring someone into sending these pictures, videos and messages is **abuse**.

It is important to know that sharing nude images or videos is **illegal** even if **consent** is given.

Consent means that someone has given another person permission to do something.

If consent has not been given for someone to share nude images or videos to another person, it is **abusive and illegal.**

Even if you are not the person who is sending them, it is **illegal** to have these kind of pictures or videos of a person if they are under 18 years old.

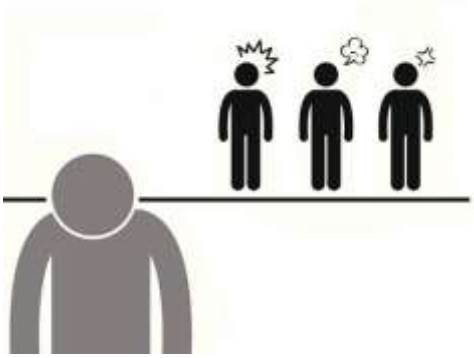
4 Sexual harassment

Sometimes, people can **act sexually towards others**, and it might make them feel uncomfortable.

This can happen **online** and **face-to-face** (both physically and verbally) and is never acceptable at any age.

It might make someone feel **scared**, **embarrassed**, **uncomfortable** or **upset**.

It could be:



- Someone making **sexual comments**, like telling sexual stories, saying **rude things**, or saying sexual things about someone's **appearance** or clothes.
- Calling someone **sexual names**.
- **Sexual jokes** or teasing.
- Being physical, like **touching** which makes someone feel uncomfortable, messing with their clothes, or **showing pictures** or **drawings** which are of a sexual nature.
- Being sexual online, like **sharing sexual pictures** and **videos,** or posting sexual comments on social media.
- **Sexual threats** or pushing someone to do something sexually that they don't want to or aren't ready for.

If you ever feel like you have been affected by sexual harassment, make sure that you tell a responsible adult, and they will listen to what happened and support you with any worries that you will be likely to have.



Relationships

Any relationship you have should be **positive** and make you feel **safe, happy and comfortable**.

A negative relationship might make someone feel **scared**, **confused**, **worried** and even **unsafe**.

It is really important that you know the **difference** between a positive relationship and a negative relationship.

Positive relationships



- You are **comfortable** around that person.
- You can be **honest** with that person.
- You can say how you **feel** and what you are **thinking**, and you **listen** to each other.
- You **support** each other and treat each other **well**.
- You feel **safe**.
- You **trust** that person.
- You do **helpful things for each other**.
- You are **never pressured** to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- You feel **looked after**.

Negative relationships

- The person might **push** you, **hit** you or **break** your things.

- The person might **tell you what to do**, what to wear or who you can see.
- You might feel **scared** – they might say they will hurt you if you don't do something.
- They might **make threats** or do harmful things if you do something they did not want you to do.
- The person **calls you names**, makes you feel bad in front of other people and makes you **feel bad about yourself**.
- The person gets **angry easily** and you don't know what will make them angry – it might make you feel **nervous**.



- The person might **pressure** you to do things **you don't want to do** or are not ready for.
- The person **might not take no for answer** when you say you don't want to do something.



How do I know if someone is being abused?

It might be hard for you to know if you are being abused and you **might not really understand** it is happening. It is important you can **recognise** when behaviour isn't appropriate.

It's also important that you can notice when **someone else** might be being abused.

Some signs might be:

- Not going to school.
- Having injuries, like bruises.
- Feeling sad and down.
- Feeling like they can't cope.
- Feeling withdrawn or shy.
- Getting headaches or stomachaches.
- Feeling nervous.
- Not being able to sleep, sleeping too much or getting nightmares.
- Feeling panicked.
- Changing looks to look much older.
- Being abusive to someone else.





Remember: you can feel all of these things too. Listen to how you feel, and know that these signs can mean you are being abused.



What do I do if someone else is being abused?

If you think that someone is being abused, it is important that you **help** that person.

You should **never walk away** and ignore the problem if you see someone else being abused, because the person might keep upsetting them.



If you can, and it is **safe** to do so, tell the person abusing them to **stop**, but never get angry or hit them.

Tell a responsible adult, such as a teacher, as soon as you've seen someone being abused.

A responsible adult can **stop the abuse** and give their support to the person who is being abused.

You should **never feel scared** to tell someone about abuse.

Sometimes, you might not **see someone being abused**, but you might be worried about them. You might think they are being abused by **someone you don't know**, or someone they have told you about. It's really important you **tell someone** even if you are worried, but haven't **seen** any abuse.



What do I do if I am being abused?

The first thing you should do is **tell someone you trust**. This could be a family member, a friend or a teacher.

You can also **tell the person abusing you** to leave you alone. If telling them to leave you alone would make you feel too scared or worried that they might hurt you, make sure you **tell someone** so they can help.

You should **try not** to:

- **Do** what the person says.
- Let what the person says or does **upset** you.
- Get **angry** or hit them.

Always remember that if you are being abused, it is **not your fault** and you are **never alone**.



Who can I talk to?

It is important you **tell someone** as soon as you think that you are being abused, or you think that someone else being abused.

Speaking to someone like your parent, carer or teacher will mean that we can make sure the **abuse stops** and doesn't happen again.

The list below shows the **people** at our **school** that you can speak to:

- **Mrs Starkie**
- **Mrs Davidson**
- **Mrs Scott**
  or your trusted adult in school





How can I help stop abuse from happening?

We can all help stop abuse at our school by:

- Making sure we **understand** how we should **treat** others.
- **Helping** others when they are in need.
- Being **kind**, **friendly** and **respectful** to others.
- Thinking about people's **feelings** before we say or do something.
- Looking back at this booklet and pay attention to school activities such as assemblies, which talk about child-on-child abuse.
- **Talking to someone** when we are worried.



You should know that abuse is never OK and it is serious. It is not funny, or part of growing up. If you abuse someone, you will get into trouble.

Let's make St. Mary's Catholic Primary School a happy place!

