

WALTHAMSTOW MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Peer on Peer Abuse Policy

IMPORTANT

WALTHAMSTOW MONTESSORI SCHOOL WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY FORM OF ABUSE, RADICALISATION OR EXTREMISM TOWARDS CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE.

WMS MORAL PURPOSE

“We are united in the belief that together we can inspire all learners to dream, persevere and achieve so that we can change lives for the better, now and for future generations to come”

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

If you are worried About a Child or Young Person speak to any of the following staff immediately:

Wendy Palumbo - Head of School and DSL
Lorna Mahoney - Principal

‘SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYBODY’S RESPONSIBILITY’

(A signed policy is available upon request)

This policy was adopted on dated: **01.03.2016**

Signed (Principal):

Signed (Senior member of school staff):

Signed (Parent Representative):

Date of Signage: 1/5/18

Date to be Reviewed: 01.05.2019

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The safeguarding policy is in place to help prevent children being at risk of harm. The peer on peer abuse policy forms part of our safeguarding policy and as such should be read in conjunction.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding policies please refer to your DSL.

WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child being at risk of harm please speak to Wendy Palumbo (DSL) or, in her absence Mary Vadher (Deputy DSL) Or Katie Prior (Deputy DSL) DO NOT IGNORE IT.

EXTREMISM/RADICALISATION

All staff and management are to be familiar with the indicators of vulnerability to extremism and radicalisation and the procedures for dealing with concerns. Staff are made aware of the potential indicating factors when a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial (damaging) behaviour and personal or political grievances. Staff to report any concerns to the head of school.

SAFEGUARDING/HEALTH AND SAFETY

WMS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. At WMS we provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child and we strive to provide this within our classrooms. All staff follow health and safety guidelines.

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL

At WMS we work to prevent children and young people from developing extreme and radical views by embedding SMSC principles throughout the curriculum. During lessons we strive to create a learning environment which promotes respect, diversity and self-awareness and equips all of our children and young people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they will need to succeed in their future lives.

For more details/information on Safeguarding refer to the following documents:

- • Keeping Children safe in education (statutory guidance for schools and colleges)
- • Working together to safeguard children (A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children)
- • Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in educational settings
- • Safeguarding Policy

Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016 states that ‘Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their child protection policy includes procedures to minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse and sets out how allegations of peer on peer abuse will be investigated and dealt with’.

While it is recommended that Peer on Peer abuse is associated with the School Safeguarding Protection Policy, due to the sensitive nature and specific issues involved with peer on peer abuse this separate policy has been completed to annex to the Safeguarding Policy.

Definition

At WMS we are committed to ensure that any form of peer on peer abuse or harmful behaviour is dealt with immediately and consistently. This will reduce the extent of harm to the young person and minimise the potential impact on that individual child's emotional and mental health and well-being.

There is no clear boundary between incidents that should be regarded as abusive and incidents that are more properly dealt with as bullying, sexual experimentation etc. This is a matter of professional judgement.

If one child or young person causes harm to another, this should not necessarily be dealt with as abuse: bullying, fighting and harassment between children are not generally seen as child protection issues. However, it may be appropriate to regard a young person's behaviour as abusive if:

- • There is a large difference in power (for example age, size, ability, development) between the young people concerned; or
- • The perpetrator has repeatedly tried to harm one or more other children; or

Prevention

As a school we will minimise the risk of allegations against other pupils by:

- Providing a developmentally appropriate PSHE syllabus which develops pupils understanding of acceptable behaviour and keeping themselves safe
- Having a robust E safety programme which develops pupils knowledge, understanding and skills, to ensure personal safety and self protection when using the internet and social networking
- Having robust monitoring and filtering systems in place to ensure pupils are safe and act appropriately when using information technology in school
- Having systems in place for any pupil to raise concerns with staff, knowing that they will be listened to, believed and valued
- Delivering targeted work on assertiveness and keeping safe to those pupils identified as being at risk
- Developing robust risk assessments & providing targeted work for pupils identified as being a potential risk to other pupils

Allegations against other pupils which are safeguarding issues

Occasionally, allegations may be made against pupils by other children in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, teenage relationship abuse and sexual exploitation, bullying, cyber bullying and sexting . It should be considered as a safeguarding allegation against a pupil if some of the following features are present.

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 pupil
- Indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this student

Examples of safeguarding issues against a pupil could include:

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may include, hitting, kicking, nipping, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm to another person. There may be many reasons why a child harms another and it is important to understand why a young person has engaged in such behaviour, including accidentally, before considering the action or sanctions to be undertaken.

Bullying

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behaviour among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both young people who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behaviour must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: people who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviours happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumours, attacking someone physically or verbally or for a particular reason e. g. size, hair colour, race, gender, sexual orientation, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying is the use of phones, instant messaging, e-mail, chat rooms or social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to harass threaten or intimidate someone for the same reasons as stated above. It is important to state that cyber bullying can very easily fall into criminal behaviour under the Communications Act 2003, Section 127 which states that electronic communications which are grossly offensive or indecent, obscene or menacing, or false, used again for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another could be deemed to be criminal behaviour. If the behaviour involves the use of taking or distributing indecent images of young people under the age of 18 then this is also a criminal offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Outside of the immediate support young

people may require in these instances, the school will have no choice but to involve the police to investigate these situations.

Sexting

Sexting is when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video. This includes sending 'nude pics', 'rude pics' or 'nude selfies'. Pressuring someone into sending a nude picture can happen in any relationship and to anyone, regardless of their age, gender or sexual preference. However, once the image is taken and sent, the sender has lost control of the image and these images could end up anywhere. By having in their possession, or distributing, indecent images of a person under 18 on to someone else, young people are not even aware that they could be breaking the law as stated as these are offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Emotional Abuse

Can include blackmail or extortion and may also includes threats and intimidation. This harmful behaviour can have a significant impact on the mental health and emotional well- being of the victim and can lead to self harm.

Sexual Abuse

Sexually harmful behaviour from young people is not always contrived or with the intent to harm others. There may be many reasons why a young person engages in sexually harmful behaviour and it may be just as distressing to the young person who instigates it as well as the young person it is intended towards. Sexually harmful behaviour may range from inappropriate sexual language, inappropriate role play, to sexually touching another or sexual assault/abuse. . It can also include indecent exposure, indecent touching /serious sexual assaults or forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting.

Sexual Exploitation

This can include encouraging other young people to engage in inappropriate sexual behaviour or grooming and recruiting members of the peer group into being sexually exploited by other young people or adults. It can also include photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts.

Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Peer on Peer Abuse

When an allegation is made by a pupil against another pupil, members of staff should consider whether the complaint raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be informed immediately.

A factual record should be made of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead should contact the LADO to discuss the case. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a referral where appropriate.

If the allegation indicates that a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police will become involved.

Parents, of both the pupils being complained about and the alleged victim/s, should be informed and kept updated on the progress of the referral.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the Secure Safeguarding records.

If the allegation highlights a potential risk to the school and the pupil, the school will follow the school's behaviour policy and procedures and take appropriate action.

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.

CONNECTING POLICIES FOR SAFEGUARDING PURPOSE

If you are worried about a child or young person (in relation to issues listed below) or have any concerns or questions regarding Child Protection refer to Wendy Palumbo the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or, in her absence Mary Vadher or Katie Prior who are both Assistant DSL

LIST OF SAFEGUARDING/CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES

child missing from education : child missing from home care : child sexual exploitation (CSE) : bullying including cyber bullying : domestic violence : drugs : fabricated or induced illness : faith abuse : female genital mutilation (FGM) : forced marriage : gangs with youth violence : gender based violence against women and girls (VAWG) : mental health : private fostering : preventing radicalisation : sexting : teenage relationship abuse : trafficking.

From DfE, Keeping children safe in education: September 2016

WMS believes it is very important that all the Safeguarding Policies are read in conjunction with one another to quickly identify and take any necessary and appropriate action to help prevent children and young people up to 18 years of age being at risk of harm. MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [NSPCC.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk): TES & NSPCC safeguarding: GOV.UK keeping children safe

SAFEGUARDING CONNECTING POLICIES (shared on our website: www.walthamstowmontessori.com and in our policy folders)

Anti-Bullying
Anti-Radicalisation
Attendance

Behaviour
Intimacy
Medication
Lost child
Data Protection
E-safety

FGM
First Aid
Health & Safety
Lone Worker
PSHE
Pupil Friendly Safeguarding SRE
SMSC
Safer Recruitment
SMSC
Trafficking
Visits/Trips Whistleblowing

The Safeguarding Policies are up-dated annually or as necessary depending on new statutory guidance or legislation

This policy was adopted on dated: **01.05.2017**

Signed (Principal):

Signed (Senior member of school staff):

Signed (Parent Representative):

Date of signage: 1/5/2018

Date to be Reviewed: **01.05.2019**