

## Brearley Hall School

### Child on Child Abuse Policy 2023//2024

**IMPORTANT**

BREARLEY HALL SCHOOL WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY FORM OF ABUSE, RADICALISATION OR EXTREMISM TOWARDS CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE

#### **BREARLEY HALL SCHOOL VISION AND ETHOS**

To ensure every child is given the opportunity to fulfil their potential in a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment. To develop a group of people who are cohesive, aligned and passionate about changing children's lives.

#### **BREARLEY HALL SCHOOL: 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 speak to any of the following staff immediately;  
Mr Docherty or Miss Birks,

#### **'SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY'**

**Date of Issue:** September 2020

**Date of Last Review:** August 2023

**Date of Next Review:** July 2024

Signed by .....



Dominic Macauley

Proprietor



James Docherty  
Head of Education

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICIES CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The safeguarding policies (see back page for complete list?) are in place to help prevent children and young people up to 18 years of age being at risk of harm. Brearley Hall School advises the safeguarding policies are read in conjunction with each other. If you have any concerns or questions regarding policies please refer to a member of SLT.

## **WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD/YOUNG PERSON**

If you are worried about a child or a young person being at risk of harm please speak to Head of Education Mr James Docherty (DSL) or, Miss Birks (Lead Teacher). **DO NOT IGNORE IT!**

## **EXTREMISM/RADICALISATION**

All staff and Governors 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.

## **SAFEGUARDING /HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Brearley Hall School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. At Riverbank 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**

Brearley Hall 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) : September 2023
- Working together to safeguard children (A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children : March 2015
- Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in educational settings : October 2015
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Procedure (Brearley Hall School)

**Important:** Please refer to the list of safeguarding policies, they include specific Safeguarding/Child Protection issues towards children and young people.

## Introduction

Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023 states that 'Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their child protection policy that reflects the whole school approach to Child on Child abuse. (Paragraph 98)

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

At Brearley Hall School we are committed to ensure that any form of child on child 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.

## Definition

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
- There are concerns about the intention of the alleged young person.

If the evidence suggests that there was an intention to cause severe harm to the victim, this should be regarded as abusive whether or not severe harm was actually caused.

## 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 Online and Mobile Technology 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 young people 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 this student
- 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 (including cyberbullying)**

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:** Young 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.

**Teenage Relationship Abuse** Teenage relationship abuse is defined as a pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse, perpetrated by an adolescent (between the ages of 13 and 18) against a current or former partner. Abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse. The abusive teen uses this pattern of violent and coercive behaviour, in a heterosexual or same gender relationship, in order to gain power and maintain control over the partner.

**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.

**Up-skirting** This 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;

### **Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Child on Child Abuse**

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 (DSL) should be informed.

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 Calderdale MAST 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, through Calderdale MAST, the police will become involved.

Parents, of both the student/s 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 Mr Docherty (Head Teacher) or Miss Birks (Lead Teacher)

### **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: 2023

Brearley Hall School 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](http://NSPCC.org.uk): TES & NSPCC safeguarding: GOV.UK keeping children safe SAFEGUARDING CONNECTING POLICIES (situated on the Riverbank website) [www.timeouthomes.co.uk](http://www.timeouthomes.co.uk) Anti-Bullying Anti- Cyber Bullying Anti-Racism Anti-Radicalisation Attendance Behaviour Care/Intimate Care/Administration of Medication /Touch Children Missing From Home Complaints Child Protection (including the safeguarding of all children) Data Protection Drugs E-safety (online) FGM First Aid Health & Safety ICT and Computing

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.

