



Managing Allegations Against Other Children

Reviewed: July 2017

Next Planned Review: July 2018

Signed (Headteacher) R Cook

Introduction

At Newdale Primary School and Nursery, we believe that 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 children.

We recognise that some children 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:-

Very occasionally, allegations may be made against children by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Though very rare, safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a child, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:-

- Is made against an older child and refers to their behaviour towards a younger child
- or a more vulnerable child.
- Is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence.
- Raises risk factors for other children in the school.
- Indicates that other children may have been affected by this child.
- Indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this child.

Examples of safeguarding issues against a child could include:

(We appreciate that the risk of this happening in primary school is low, however it is still deemed a risk).

Physical Abuse

Violence, particularly pre-planned
Forcing others to use drugs or alcohol

Emotional Abuse

Blackmail or extortion
Threats and intimidation

Sexual Abuse

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.

In areas where gangs are prevalent, older children may attempt to recruit younger children 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.

We recognise that children who have disabilities and/ or SEND may have additional barriers to disclosing incidents of a Child Protection nature. Similarly, professionals may also experience barriers when recognising signs of abuse and neglect with these particular children. Staff are trained to a high level in recognising signs of abuse and neglect and are fully aware of the policies and procedures to be followed in these instances.

Minimising the risk of safeguarding concerns towards children from other children:-

These children will need an individual risk management plan to ensure that other children are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations. There is a need to balance the tension between privacy and safeguarding.

What to do:-

When an allegation is made by a child 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 immediately.

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

The DSL should **contact Family Connect (Tel: 01952 385385)** to discuss the case, if appropriate. It is possible that Family Connect are already aware of safeguarding concerns around this young person. The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a Family Connect referral where appropriate.

The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy on file.

If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police should be contacted at the earliest opportunity and parents informed (of both the student being complained about and the alleged victim).

It may be appropriate to exclude the child being complained about for a period of time according to the school's behaviour policy and 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.

After the case

No matter what the outcome is of an allegation of abuse against another child, the school will review the case to see if there are any improvements that can be made in its practice or policy that may help to prevent similar cases in the future. Reviews will be ongoing and long lasting, with information being passed at the point of transition.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Designated Safeguarding leads.
Next review: June 2018

Interim Review undertaken July 2017 pending release of revised Child Protection Policy in September 2017.