

Child on Child Abuse

Information for Parents and Carers



What is child-on-child abuse?

This form of abuse is when there is any kind of physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse or coercive control exercised between children/young people, both on and offline.

Child-on-child abuse can be motivated by perceived differences e.g. on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other differences.

It can result in significant, long lasting and traumatic isolation, intimidation or violence to the victim.

Children or young people who harm others may have additional or complex needs e.g. significant disruption in their own lives, exposure to domestic abuse or witnessing or suffering abuse, educational under-achievement, being involved in crime.

It should be recognised that child on child abuse is harmful to both the perpetrator and the victim and all parties should be given appropriate support.

Staff awareness and understanding

Here at St Mark's, staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between children/young people.

Historically certain behaviours have been downplayed in schools, for example dismissing harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh" or "just part of growing up" or "boys being boys".

Staff here recognise that emotional bullying can sometimes be more damaging than physical harm and should be taken equally seriously.

If incidents are not taken seriously, this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios, a culture that normalises abuse leading to children/young people accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.



Stopping harm and ensuring immediate safety is our first priority.

Through worship, Computing and PSHE lessons, we help children and young people understand that any incidents of child-on-child abuse will be taken seriously and responded to effectively.

We make children aware of how to report anything upsetting that may happen and encourage them to speak out if they are worried about their own or someone else's behaviour.

Reporting

Designated Safeguarding Leaders:

DSL: Mrs Jones

Deputy DSL: Mrs Smith

You can also report any safeguarding concern by emailing:

dsl@st-marks.hants.sch.uk