Dropmore Infant School

Littleworth Road, Dropmore, Burnham
Buckinghamshire SL1 8PF
Telephone: 01753 644403

Headteachers:	**Mrs Nicky Waugh** **Miss Amy Douglas**
Chair of Governors:	**Mrs Charlotte Hemmings**
Policy No:	**078**
Policy Title:	**Child-on-Child Abuse Policy** **(Links to Child Protection Policy)**
Issue No:	**001**
Effective Date:	**September 2026**
Next Review Date:	**September 2027**

Approved by Chair of Governors: C.Hemmings

……

Date: 01.09.2026……

1. Policy Statement

At Dropmore Infant School, we are committed to providing a safe, caring and inclusive environment where every child feels valued, respected and protected from harm.

We recognise that abuse can occur between children and that child-on-child abuse is a safeguarding issue requiring immediate and appropriate action. Child-on-child abuse will never be dismissed as:

- "children being children"
- "banter"
- "part of growing up"
- "a falling out"
- "just a game"

We adopt the safeguarding principle of:

"It could happen here."

All concerns regarding child-on-child abuse will be taken seriously, investigated proportionately and responded to in a manner that protects the welfare of all children involved. This reflects the expectations outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2026).

2. Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to:

- Protect children from harm caused by other children.
- Promote a culture of safety, respect and inclusion.
- Prevent child-on-child abuse through education and early intervention.
- Ensure staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities.
- Support children who have experienced abuse.
- Support children displaying harmful behaviours.
- Ensure compliance with statutory safeguarding duties.

3. Legislative Framework

This policy should be read alongside:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- Children Act 1989.
- Children Act 2004.
- Education Act 2002.
- Equality Act 2010.
- Human Rights Act 1998.
- Buckinghamshire Council Child Protection Framework Policy.
- Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures and guidance. [buckssafeg...ing.org.uk]

4. Scope

This policy applies to:

- all pupils
- all teaching staff
- support staff
- volunteers
- governors
- contractors
- visitors

It applies to incidents occurring:

- on school premises
- during educational visits
- during extracurricular activities
- on transport arranged by the school
- online
- outside school where safeguarding concerns continue to impact a child within school

5. Definition of Child-on-Child Abuse

Child-on-child abuse occurs when one child causes harm to another child.

The behaviour may be:

- intentional
- repeated
- opportunistic
- coercive
- exploitative

The impact on the child must always be considered when assessing concerns.

6. Types of Child-on-Child Abuse

6.1 Physical Abuse

Including:

- hitting
- kicking
- pushing
- biting
- scratching
- pinching
- deliberate physical injury

6.2 Emotional Abuse

Including:

- intimidation
- humiliation
- threats
- manipulation
- deliberate exclusion
- coercive behaviour

6.3 Bullying

Including:

- verbal bullying
- physical bullying
- relational bullying
- cyber-bullying
- discriminatory bullying

Bullying may be linked to:

- race
- disability
- religion
- gender
- family circumstances
- appearance
- special educational needs

6.4 Sexual Harassment

KCSIE makes clear that schools should operate a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment.

Examples include:

- inappropriate comments
- unwanted touching
- invasive personal questions
- sexualised language
- sexual name-calling

Whilst less common in infant schools, such behaviours can occur and must be addressed appropriately.

6.5 Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

This includes behaviour which is:

- developmentally inappropriate
- harmful
- coercive
- exploitative

Examples may include:

- repeated inappropriate touching
- exposing body parts
- coercing another child into sexualised behaviour
- imitating sexual acts in a concerning manner

The school will seek specialist advice where appropriate.

6.6 Online Abuse

Including:

- cyberbullying
- sharing images
- sending inappropriate messages
- accessing inappropriate content
- online coercion

Although pupils at an infant school are younger, risks remain through access to devices outside school.

7. Developmentally Appropriate Behaviour

The school recognises that children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 are developing social awareness, curiosity and understanding of relationships.

Many behaviours are part of normal child development and may include:

- curiosity about bodies
- questions about differences
- seeking friendships
- developing boundaries

However, behaviours become safeguarding concerns where they are:

- aggressive
- secretive
- repeated
- coercive
- distressing to another child
- developmentally inappropriate

Professional judgement must always be exercised.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Board

The Governing Board will ensure:

- effective safeguarding arrangements are in place
- policies are reviewed annually
- safeguarding training is provided
- safeguarding concerns are monitored appropriately
- statutory guidance is followed

Headteacher

The Headteacher(s) will:

- promote a culture of safeguarding
- ensure policies are implemented
- support the DSL
- ensure staff receive appropriate training

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL (Nicky Waugh & Amy Douglas, with support from DDSL, Rachel Singh) will:

- manage safeguarding concerns
- assess risk
- maintain records
- liaise with external agencies
- provide advice to staff
- support children and families
- oversee interventions

All Staff

All staff must:

- maintain vigilance
- recognise signs of abuse
- report concerns immediately
- record concerns accurately
- undertake safeguarding training

All staff should maintain an attitude that:

"It could happen here."

This is emphasised within KCSIE.

9. Prevention

The school seeks to prevent abuse through:

Curriculum

Age-appropriate teaching through:

- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Relationships Education
- Online Safety Education
- British Values
- Wellbeing assemblies and interventions

Children will learn:

- personal boundaries
- respectful relationships
- kindness and empathy
- safe touch
- trusted adults

- how to seek help

School Culture

The school will promote:

- respect
- inclusion
- equality
- positive behaviour
- emotional literacy

Children will know that all concerns are taken seriously.

10. Reporting Concerns

Where staff witness, suspect or receive information about child-on-child abuse, they must:

Do

- remain calm
- listen carefully
- reassure the child
- record facts accurately on CPOMs
- report immediately to the DSL

Do Not

- promise confidentiality
- investigate independently
- ask leading questions
- confront other children directly

All safeguarding concerns must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

11. Responding to Concerns

The DSL will:

Consider

- the ages of pupils involved
- developmental stages
- frequency of incidents
- power imbalance
- level of harm
- vulnerability of those involved

Complete a Risk Assessment

Where appropriate, a written risk assessment will be completed considering:

- immediate safety
- supervision levels
- educational arrangements
- emotional support needs

Determine Further Action

This may include:

- monitoring
- pastoral support
- meetings with parents
- referral to children's social care
- police involvement
- referral to specialist services

12. Supporting Children Who Have Experienced Abuse

The welfare of the child will always be the school's primary concern.

Support may include:

- emotional support
- nurture provision
- wellbeing interventions
- wellbeing monitoring
- external agency support

Children will be reassured that:

- they are believed
- concerns have been taken seriously
- appropriate action is being taken

KCSIE places particular emphasis on supporting victims and ensuring they feel safe.

13. Supporting Children Displaying Harmful Behaviour

Children displaying harmful behaviours may themselves have safeguarding needs.

The school will seek to:

- understand underlying causes
- provide education and support
- involve parents appropriately

- secure specialist intervention where required

Any disciplinary response will remain proportionate and balanced with safeguarding considerations.

14. Working with Parents and Carers

Parents will normally be informed where concerns arise unless doing so places a child at increased risk.

The DSL will determine:

- what information should be shared
- when parents should be informed
- whether agency advice should be sought first

The school recognises the importance of maintaining positive and supportive relationships with parents throughout safeguarding processes.

15. Record Keeping

The school will maintain accurate safeguarding records on the CPOMS system.

Records will:

- be factual
- be stored securely
- be shared on a need-to-know basis
- comply with data protection requirements

The DSL will monitor patterns of behaviour and emerging concerns.

16. Equality and Inclusion

The school recognises that child-on-child abuse can be linked to prejudice and discrimination.

The school will challenge behaviour relating to:

- race
- religion
- disability
- sex
- gender stereotypes
- family circumstances

All children have the right to feel safe, respected and valued.

17. Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Contacts

Dropmore Infant School Designated Safeguarding Leads

Name: Nicky Waugh & Amy Douglas

Email: safeguarding@dropmore.school or head@dropmore.school

Telephone: 01753 644 403

Dropmore Infant School Deputy DSL

Name: Rachel Singh

Buckinghamshire First Response Team (MASH)

Telephone: **01296 383962**

Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team:

0800 999 7677

Buckinghamshire Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (ESAS)

Telephone: **01296 387981**

Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Website:

https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk/childrenpartnership/ [buckssafeg...ing.org.uk]

Emergency Services

999

---

18. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- annually
- following safeguarding audits
- after significant incidents
- following changes to legislation or statutory guidance

The Governing Board remains responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy.

Dropmore Infant School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.