

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College

Child-on-Child Abuse Policy

The College believes:

- That positive student behaviour is promoted most effectively when students are encouraged to treat each other with tolerance and respect;
- That students can learn and make progress when their behaviour is managed in a consistent, fair and supportive way and when they are protected from the negative behaviours of others;
- That it has a particular duty to guard against all forms of child-on-child abuse.

POLICY

The College recognises:

- Its responsibility is to promote mutual respect and understanding between members of the College community.
- The right of individuals to feel safe on the College premises and whilst engaged in College based activities.
- Its responsibility to prevent the abuse of students by fellow students (known as child-on-child abuse)
- Its duty is to eliminate victimisation or discrimination because of: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race to include ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality; religion or belief which includes lack of belief; sex; sexual orientation.
- The right of individuals to move freely, and without harassment, around their place of study.
- The right of individuals not to be verbally or physically abused or intimidated.
- The right of individuals not to be harassed or intimidated via digital technology such as the internet, mobile phones or other forms of communication devices.
- Its responsibility to provide support to students who believe that they are the victims of child-on-child abuse or who feel that their safety is threatened.

The College understands child-on-child abuse to include the following behaviours:

- Bullying (including online, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- Physical abuse (which may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse);
- Sexual violence (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence);
- Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes, and online sexual harassment;
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent;
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery);

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College

- Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission;
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this may also include an online element).

POLICY GUIDELINES

1. The College will ensure through its pastoral support and guidance structures that students are made aware of the negative impact of poor behaviour and of child-on-child abuse and of the College's refusal to tolerate these.
2. The College will promote, through the tutorial programme, an understanding of the College's expectations of them, of the nature of unacceptable behaviour and of the nature of child-on-child abuse.
3. Staff will be informed about the College expectations of students in terms of conduct and behaviour and will receive regular training to promote an understanding of the nature of child-on-child abuse including how to recognise its indicators and signs, how to identify it, how to challenge unacceptable and abusive behaviours and how to respond to reports. All staff should understand that, even if there are no reports in the college, it does not mean it is not happening but it may be the case that it is just not being reported.
4. Staff will be made aware that some groups are potentially more at risk. Evidence shows that girls, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and LGBT+ children are at greater risk of sexual violence and sexual harassment.
5. Staff will be made aware that students may not find it easy to tell them about their abuse verbally or may not be ready to report their abuse. They can show signs or act in ways that they hope adults will notice and react to. In some cases, the victim may not make a direct report. For example, a friend may make a report or a member of staff may overhear a conversation that suggests a student has been harmed or a student's own behaviour might indicate that something is wrong. If staff have any concerns about a student, they should act on this immediately rather than wait to be told. Staff will be made aware that some students that have been subjected to abuse may not consider themselves a victim or would want to be described in this way and also in some cases the abusive behaviour will have been harmful to the perpetrator as well.
6. The College will ensure that systems for reporting abuse are well-promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for students.
7. The College will take serious reports of abuse which are indirect, coming from other students or third parties.
8. All reports of or concerns about child-on-child abuse will be reported immediately to the College's Designated Safeguarding Lead or a deputy. Action will be taken including referral, if appropriate, to social services or to the police.
9. The College will require staff to reassure victims of abuse that they are being taken seriously, supported and kept safe. No victim should be made to feel ashamed of reporting abuse, sexual violence or harassment or be given the impression that they are creating a problem by making a report.

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College

10. Positive relationships between different groups in College and in the wider community will be promoted as a proactive measure against forms of bullying.
11. All College staff will endeavour to establish relationships with students that encourage confidence and openness.
12. The College will ensure, where appropriate, confidentiality in dealing with issues of child-on-child abuse.
13. Counselling or listening services will be made available to support the victims of child-on-child abuse.
14. The College will respond to incidents and issues of child-on-child abuse in a fair and even-handed way, with the aim of finding a suitable solution.
15. The College will make use of its disciplinary procedures where this is believed to be an appropriate response to a situation involving negative behaviour or child-on-child abuse.
16. The College will, where appropriate, involve parents/carers in the process of dealing with incidents of child-on-child abuse.
17. In all of the above, the College will follow the guidance contained within Part 5 of “Keeping Children Safe in Education: Child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment” (September 2024).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
2. QE Expects
3. Acceptable Use of IT Agreement
4. Equality Duty Statement
5. Student Behaviour and Discipline Policy
6. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
7. Online Safety Policy