



ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Harmful Sexual Behaviours Policy Procedures

Child on Child Sexual Violence or Harassment

Mission Statement

"I called you by your name, you are mine." Isaiah 43

The mission of our school is to support and further the teachings of Christ and His Church.

We welcome and embrace individuals of all abilities and cultural backgrounds.

We aim to enhance and celebrate their moral, physical, social and emotional development, so that they may reach their full potential in an atmosphere of stability, care and respect.

We believe that education is for all and in partnership with parents, carers, children and the wider Catholic community: we will strive and succeed in a wholly inclusive setting.

Equality Statement

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any child and it helps to promote equality at St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School.

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for children with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

This policy was adopted: September 2023

The policy is to be reviewed: September 2024

Written by: Mrs Louise Prestidge DSL/Headteacher

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Louise Prestidge

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Claire Burns and Angela Liggins

Definition

Sexual violence is rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault or causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent.

Sexual harassment is unwanted conduct of a sexual nature.

Harmful sexual behaviour is problematic, abusive and violent behaviour by a child or young person that is developmentally inappropriate and may cause developmental damage.

Adapted from [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

Aims

St Augustine of Canterbury is committed to the welfare and protection of all children in our care both in school and online. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all staff in our school who must ensure that 'it could happen here'.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour including Sexual Violence and Harassments forms an important part of Safeguarding training. Staff also receive support and guidance handouts: <https://safeguarding.network/content/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Sexual-Violence-and-Sexual-Harassment-Handout-2023.pdf>

KCSIE 2023 Part 5 states:

When considering Harmful Sexual Behaviour, both ages and the stages of development of the children are critical factors. Sexual behaviour between children can be considered harmful if one of the children is much older, particularly if there is more than two years' difference or if one of the children is pre-pubescent and the other is not.

However, a younger child can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them, for example, if the older child is disabled or smaller in stature. Confidential specialist support and advice on Harmful Sexual Behaviour is available from the specialist sexual violence sector and sources are listed in Annex B of KCSIE 2023.

Addressing inappropriate behaviour can be an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Children displaying Harmful Sexual Behaviour have often experienced their own abuse and trauma. It is important that they are offered appropriate support.

At St Augustine of Canterbury of Canterbury Catholic Primary School staff receive training specifically in Sexual Violence and Harassment as part of ongoing Safeguarding training using Safeguarding Network training material including case scenario specifically aimed at primary school settings. Training focuses on what to look for and practise how to respond. Such training is focussed on improving outcomes for children and underpinned by robust evidence and expertise, include collaboration and expert challenge, and be sustained over time using Safeguarding Network materials and resources from other sources including ChildLine, Stop it Now and Childnet. Scenario work is effective in helping staff embed their learning.

What to look for:

Sometimes children and young people, or their friends, report sexual violence or harassment. At other times staff may observe something of concern and intervene.

Often children and young people do not disclose their experiences. Staff should be aware of the possible signs and talk to their safeguarding lead about how to open a conversation.

Children and young people may feel angry, upset, stressed, worried, scared and confused, and might:

- experience flashbacks;
- have difficulty sleeping and night terrors;
- have anxiety;

- find it difficult to concentrate;
- block out the memory and/or avoid remembering what happened;
- be unable to remember exactly what happened;
- find it difficult to trust people;
- think that no one else understands them;
- relive the experience of sexual abuse.

NSPCC, [Is this sexual abuse?](#) (2018)

Some children and young people may not perceive they are being abused or harassed and need support, through sex and relationships education, to understand their experiences. However, sometimes lessons about sex, relationships and consent, could bring back bad memories that are difficult to deal with.

What to do if an incident occurs or a concern is raised:

It's crucial that children get the right response immediately from the adults they approach.

- Concerns, whether observed or disclosed, should be taken seriously and reported to the designated safeguarding lead or deputies without delay.
- Don't assume the concern has already been reported by someone else.
- Take immediate action to keep children and young people safe.
- Provide reassurance and support to everyone involved. It's essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward. They should never be made to feel ashamed for making a report or have their experience minimised.
- Don't promise confidentiality, but do explain that only people who need to know will be told.
- Listen carefully, reflect back, be non-judgemental and don't ask leading questions. Guidance recommends having two people present if possible.
- Write up a thorough factual summary after the child has finished, using their own words as much as possible.
- If there is an online element (such as pictures or videos), do not view or forward this - you may refer to DfE advice on [searching, screening and confiscation](#), and UKCIS [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#) guidance.

Follow part five of [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) and consider the most proportionate response, in consultation with the child who experienced the abuse, and their parents or carers.

The response must include a risk assessment around the potential for reoccurrence, taking particular care to ensure the child is safe from further abuse or reprisals, that other children are protected, and that the alleged perpetrator is receiving appropriate support. Action in some circumstances must involve children's social care and/or the police.

If parents/carers wish to communicate any concern they have in relation to harmful sexual behaviours, or if they feel their child is experiencing or demonstrating such behaviours, then they should report these concerns to the school DSL in the first instance or to the school Deputy DSLs using the contact details below.

	Name	Contact information e.g. Email/Phone number
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Louise Prestidge	headteacher@staugustine.medway.sch.uk 01634 371892
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	Claire Burns Angela Liggins	deputyhead@staugustine.medway.sch.uk senco@staugustine.medway.sch.uk 01634 371892

A preventative approach

At St Augustine of Canterbury, harmful sexual behaviours are approached through a broad and vigilant approach to safeguarding. Our PSHE, RSE and RE curriculum is age and stage of development appropriate (especially when considering children with SEND and their cognitive understanding), and may tackle such issues as:

- healthy and respectful relationships;
- what respectful behaviour looks like;
- consent;
- gender roles, stereotyping and equality;
- body confidence and self-esteem;
- prejudiced behaviour;
- understanding that sexual violence and sexual harassment is always wrong;
- addressing cultures of sexual harassment;
- addressing misogyny.

Good practice allows children an open forum to talk things through in an age and stage appropriate way and ensures that children are made aware of how to raise concerns (including about friends/peers), make a report and how reports are handled.

Support for children

It is essential that all victims are reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.

A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. A victim should never be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Depending on the level of concern raised, and the needs of the children involved, support may include that from the DSL team (Nurture, Draw and Talk) Early Help or more specialist support, such as Play Therapy or counselling. Referrals and/or Consultation with Medway Children's Services and/or the Police will be actioned by the DSL where appropriate.

All staff must ensure that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable, will not be tolerated and that all the children and young people involved or impacted (including perpetrators) will need support.

Additional Information

The Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool provides a highly visible, multi-agency response that helps professionals to identify, understand and respond appropriately to sexual behaviours in young people. A version of the Brook Traffic Light Tool can be found [here](#).