

Ridgeway Infant School is a safe happy, place where everyone does their best!

MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PUPILS POLICY



Date agreed: 28th NOVEMBER 2017

Minute Ref: FGB 17/037

Signature of Chair of FGB:

Review Due: SUMMER 2018

Responsibility of the Full Governing Body

Managing Allegations Against Other Pupils

Introduction

At Ridgeway Infant School we believe that all 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 pupils.

We recognise that some pupils will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with using the school's Behaviour Policy. Occasionally however, allegations may be made against pupils by other pupils in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature

This policy is intended to raise staff awareness of the possibility of such occasions, minimising risk and to assist staff in preparing and planning a response if such action is required.

This policy has been compiled in response to the following legislation:

- **DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016**
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015**

Links to other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the schools:

- **Safeguarding Policy 2017**
- **Behaviour Policy 2017**
- **Anti-Bullying Policy 2016**

Safeguarding Allegations

Safeguarding issues raised by pupils against other pupils may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a pupil, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:

- is made against an older pupil and refers to their behaviour towards a younger pupil or a more vulnerable pupil;
- is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence; raises risk factors for other pupils in the school;
- indicates that other pupils may have been affected by this pupil;
- indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this pupil.

Examples of safeguarding issues against a pupil could include:

Physical Abuse

- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to smoke, 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

MINIMISING THE RISK OF SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS TOWARDS PUPILS FROM OTHER PUPILS

Appropriate adult supervision will be provided. Adults will be vigilant at all times to ensure children are working and playing safely. Hot spots such as tents, play houses and piles of coats will be closely monitored.

In addition, as part of the PSHE curriculum, children will learn about appropriate touch in an age appropriate way.

However, it is recognised that on occasion, some pupils will present a safeguarding risk to other pupils. The school should be informed by the appropriate services if a pupil raises safeguarding concerns, for example they have experienced serious abuse themselves.

These pupils will be issued with an individual risk management plan to ensure that other pupils are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations.

Procedures

When an allegation is made by a pupil against another pupil or inappropriate behaviour is observed, members of staff should consider whether the complaint/observation raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be informed.

A factual record should be made of the allegation on an *Initial Concerns Sheet*. However, at this stage no attempt should be made to investigate the circumstances.

The DSL should contact social services to discuss the case. It is possible that social services are already aware of safeguarding concerns around this young person. The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a social services referral where appropriate.

The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both pupils' files.

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

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

Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual disciplinary procedures.

In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the safeguarding review.

Headteacher

September 2017