

Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

A Parent and Student Guide to Child on Child Abuse and what happens if it is reported in school.

This guide has been informed by the most recent government policies Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children. It has also been written with UNICEF'S Rights of the Child in mind.

Important Definitions:

Peer on Peer Abuse is the abuse of one student by one or more other students inside or outside school, in the real or online world.

Sexual Violence: Rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault

Sexual Harassment: Unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, including sexual remarks, sexual taunts, physical behaviour or online sexual harassment.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour: developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour, which may be harmful or abusive including viewing pornography.

Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or to cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm

Sexting (also known as 'youth-produced sexual imagery')

When A Report is made:

Both the victim or a third party may disclose peer on peer abuse. The abuse can have happened onsite, offsite or online.

Victims will be reassured. They will be taken seriously, listened to and kept safe. The school cannot promise confidentiality but only people who need to know will be informed. Two members of staff will listen to victim; one will be the Assistant Head i/c Safeguarding or a Deputy Safeguarding Lead. The disclosure will be recorded as it is reported in the victim's own words.

The victim will be informed about referral to other agencies - if the victim does not give consent to share, staff may still lawfully share in order to protect

a child from harm and to promote the welfare of children. The parents of the victim will be informed, unless this would put victim at greater risk.

Anonymity: Note that in cases of sexual violence there is legal protection of the victim's identity. This also includes sharing on social media and discussion amongst pupils in the school.

Next Steps:

For all incidents where a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm or is in immediate danger, social services will be informed.

For all incidents of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault, the police will be informed and the school will discuss the next steps with them. Where both victim and alleged perpetrator attend the school, the alleged perpetrator will be removed from any classes with the victim. Shared spaces and journey to/from school will also be considered. This is in order to safeguard both the victim and alleged perpetrator and is not a comment on the alleged perpetrator's guilt.

For non-criminal cases, the school will continue to support and safeguard both the victim and alleged perpetrator.

Disciplinary measures and sanctions in accordance with relevant policies, including the Behaviour Policy, will be applied in relation to the perpetrator.