

Beech Hill Primary School



Peer Abuse Policy. (For pupils.)

Created: June 2022.

Approved by: Local Advisory Board.

Reviewed: November 2025

Peer Abuse Policy.

Contents:

1. Feeling safe and happy at school.
2. What is child-on-child harm?
3. Bullying.
4. Sexting.
5. Sexual harassment.
6. Relationships.
7. How do I know if someone is being harmed?
8. What should I do if I am being harmed?
9. What should I do if someone else is being harmed?
10. Who can I talk to?
11. How can I stop harm from happening?

Feeling safe and happy at school.

At Beech Hill Primary School, we want to make sure that you feel happy, safe and loved when you are in and out of school. Sometimes we don't know if something bad is happening, so you need to tell us.

This policy looks at peer abuse and bullying, and what you can do when you feel you are being harmed or bullied, or when you notice someone else being harmed or bullied. Peers are just other young people.

We can help you by:

- Teaching you what peer abuse is.
- Teaching you what to do if you feel like you are being harmed, or if someone else is being harmed.
- Making sure you know the grown-ups you can speak to if you are worried.

1 What is peer bullying and harm?

The bullying or harm may be from someone you think of as your friend, a child at school with you, or another child you may know.

Harm is something which physically or emotionally **hurts** another person by using behaviour that is meant to **scare**, **hurt** or **upset** that person.

Sometimes, it can be hard to know when harm is happening, because **not all** harm will hurt, scare or upset you, and you might not know it is happening. It's really **important** you know when you are being harmed so we can make sure it stops.

There are lots of different types of harm. It is important you know what these are so you know what to do if you see them.

2

Bullying

Bullying can be different things, and isn't just hitting or kicking another person.

Emotional bullying is hurting someone's feelings, leaving them out or bossing them about.

Physical bullying is punching, kicking, spitting, hitting or pushing someone.

Verbal bullying is teasing someone, calling them names or using rude hand signs. People can also use verbal bullying to be **racist** or **homophobic**.

Racist means bullying someone because of their skin colour, race or what they believe in.

Homophobic means bullying someone because of their sexuality; calling someone gay or lesbian to hurt their feelings would be homophobic.

Sexist means bullying someone because of their sex (whether they are a boy or a girl).

Cyberbullying involves sending horrid messages over the internet or by text message.

3 Sexting

This is sending inappropriate pictures, videos or messages - they can sometimes be called 'nude pics', 'rude pics' or 'nude selfies', but can also be rude messages. Pressuring someone into sending these pictures, videos and messages is abuse.

Even if you are not the person who is sending them, it is **illegal** to have these kind of pictures or videos of a person if they are under 18 years old.





Sexual harassment

In school we use **NSPCC Talk PANTS resources**.

Talk PANTS helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

This can happen **online**, on social media, through messages and **face-to-face**.

It might make someone feel **scared**, **embarrassed**, **uncomfortable** or **upset**.

It could be:

- Someone making **sexual comments**, like telling sexual stories, saying **rude things** or saying sexual things about someone's **appearance** or clothes.
- Calling someone **sexual names**.
- **Sexual jokes** or teasing.
- Being physical, like **touching** which makes you feel uncomfortable, messing with your clothes, or **showing pictures** or **drawings** which are of a sexual nature.
- Being sexual online, like **sharing sexual pictures** and **videos**, or posting sexual comments on social media.
- It might also be **sexual threats** or pushing you to do something sexually that you don't want to or aren't ready for.



Relationships

Any relationship you have should be **good** and **happy**.

A bad relationship might make someone feel **scared**, **confused**, **worried** and even **unsafe**.

It's really important that you know the difference between a good relationship and a bad relationship.

Good relationships

- You are **comfortable** around that person.
- You can be **honest** with that person.
- You can say how you **feel**, what you are **thinking** and you **listen** to each other.
- You **support** each other and treat each other **nicely**.
- You feel **safe**.
- You **trust** that person.
- You are **equal** - you don't boss each other around or tell each other what to do.
- You feel **looked after**.

Bad relationships

- The person might **push** you, **hit** you or **destroy** your things.
- The person might **tell you what to do**, what to wear or who you can see.
- You might feel **scared** - they might say they will hurt you if you don't do something. They might also say they will hurt you if you do something too.
- The person **calls you names**, makes you feel bad in front of other people and makes you **feel bad about yourself**.
- The person gets **angry easily** and you don't know what will make them angry - it might make you feel **nervous**.
- The person might **pressure** you to do things **you don't want to** or aren't ready for, like sex, or using drugs or alcohol.
- The person **might not take no** for an answer when you don't want to do something.



6

How do I know if someone is being harmed?

It might be hard for you to know if you are being harmed and you **might not really understand** it is happening. It is important you can **recognise** when behaviour isn't appropriate.

It's also important that you can notice when **someone else** might be being harmed.

Some signs might be:

- Not going to school.
- Having injuries, like bruises.
- Feeling sad and down.
- Feeling like they can't cope.
- Feeling withdrawn or shy.
- Getting headaches or stomach ache.
- Feeling nervous.
- Not being able to sleep. Sleeping too much or getting nightmares.
- Feeling panicked.
- Using alcohol or drugs.
- Changing looks to look much older on purpose or suddenly.
- Being abusive to someone else.

Remember: you can feel all of these things too. Listen to how you feel, and know that these signs can mean you are being harmed.



7

What do I do if someone else is being harmed?

If you see someone else being harmed, it is important that you **help** that person. You should **never walk away** and ignore the problem if you see someone else being harmed, because the person might keep on upsetting them.

If you can, and it is **safe** to do so, tell the person doing the harm to **stop**, but never get angry or hit them.

Tell a **trusted adult**, such as a teacher, as soon as you've seen someone being harmed.

Grown-ups can **stop the harm** and make the person feel happy again.

You should **never feel scared** to tell someone about harm.

What do I do if I am being harmed?



The first thing you should do is **tell someone you trust**. This could be a family member, a friend or **any adult in school**.

If you feel safe, you can tell them to stop- but you do not have to. If telling them to leave you alone would **make you feel too scared or worried that they might hurt you**, make sure you **tell someone** so they can help.

You should **try not to**:

- **Do** what the person says.
- Let what the person says or does **upset** you.
- Get **angry** or hit them.

Always remember that if you are being harmed, it is **not your fault** and you are **never alone**.

You shouldn't be scared to talk to someone if you are being harmed. If you talk to a grown-up, we can make the harm stop.



Who can I talk to?

It is important you **tell someone** as soon as you are being harmed, or you notice someone else being harmed.



Speaking to a grown-up will mean that we can make sure the harm stops and doesn't happen again.



How can I stop harm from happening?

We can all help stop harm at our school by:

- Making sure we **understand** how we should **act** towards others.
- **Helping** others when they are in need.

- Being **kind, friendly** and **respectful** to others.
- Thinking about people's **feelings** before we say or do something.
- Taking part in **school activities**, like assemblies, PSHE lessons and circle time, which talk about child-on-child harm.
- **Talking to someone** when we are worried.



You should know that harm is never OK and it is serious. It is not funny, or part of growing up. If you harm someone, you will get into trouble.

Help us to help you and others be **Happy, Safe and Loved** at Beech Hill Primary School.

Other places you can get help.

- *Childline (0800 1111)*
- *NSPCC Helpline*
- *Trusted adults in school*
- *Family members or carers*

