

# Child on Child Abuse

Using guidance from 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', below sets out how FACEvents will minimise the risk of child on child abuse, how incidents are recorded, investigated and dealt with, and how victims/perpetrators are supported.

- Staff will always treat every case seriously, ensuring both the victim and the alleged perpetrator (due to the ages of the children in question) are listened to carefully, supported and not judged in any way.
- Staff will follow the same procedure for recording and reporting safeguarding issues. They must ensure that only facts are recorded and no personal opinion.
- Where there is an online element staff are aware of the advice available (searching screening and confiscation advice and UKCCIS sexting advice).
- Following a disclosure, FACEvents will create an immediate risk and needs assessment- this will be specific to the individual case. The DSP will engage with social services and specialists (including the police) where required. The assessment will cover the victim, the perpetrator and all other children, and will be reassessed at the end of each holiday.
- Any measures put in place will be recorded on the assessment and shared with all members of staff.
- Staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between children and not downplay certain behaviours as 'just having a laugh' or 'boys will be boys' or 'just part of growing up'. Staff understand that this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

## **The DSP will consider the following when dealing with a case of sexual violence and harassment:**

- The wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed. This is especially important in the context of sexual violence and sexual harassment. Victims should be given as much control as is reasonably possible over decisions regarding how any investigation will be progressed and any support that they will be offered;
- The nature of the alleged incident(s), including: whether a crime may have been committed and consideration of harmful sexual behaviour;
  - The ages of the children involved;
  - The developmental stages of the children involved;
- Any power imbalance between the children. For example, is the alleged perpetrator significantly older, more mature or more confident? Does the victim have a disability or learning difficulty?;
  - If the alleged incident is a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse.
- Are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children, adult students or school or college staff.

- Other related issues and wider context.

**Following the allegation FACEvents will consider how to best support both the victim and the alleged perpetrator:**

- Where possible the two will be kept separate and under supervision- there will be a risk assessment in place to support this (as stated above).
- For the victim, it will be made clear that support is ongoing, in some cases it may be appropriate to designate a trusted adult, in which the child is able to reach out to if needed. All measures put in place will be ongoing and constantly under review.
- For the alleged perpetrator, FACEvents will consider each case as it comes. Due to the ages of the children in the holiday club, it must always be considered that their actions may be a result of their own abuse; the DSP will seek advice from the Safeguarding Children's Board on how to proceed.