



BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the success of Anti-Bullying Week in November we have talked with the children this term about peer-on-peer abuse.

Abuse is defined as any action carried out to intentionally harm another person. When abuse take place between children this is known as peer-on-peer abuse. Peer-on-peer abuse can happen both inside and outside of school and take many forms. It is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers
- Physical abuse
- Sexual violence, assault or harassment
- Non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images or videos
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- Up-skirting
- Initiation and hazing type violence and rituals

Last week in assemblies we taught the children about peer-on-peer abuse. Concepts have been presented to the children in an age-appropriate way and resulting questions have been handled sensitively. Children have learnt what peer-on-peer abuse is, and how to respond if they think it might be taking place. As bullying is a type of peer-on-peer abuse the children have been able to make meaningful links to their previous learning.

At Bearwood Primary and Nursery school all staff are committed to creating a safe environment for our learners. School staff have received training to help them respond confidently to incidents of peer-on-peer abuse. They understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between children and will not downplay abusive behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as “just banter”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”. We are grateful for your support in preventing a culture of normalising unacceptable behaviours.

Any incidents of peer-on-peer abuse involving children at Bearwood Primary and Nursery school will be handled in line with our school Safeguarding policy. Responses to situations will be planned on a case-by-case basis but any child who experiences peer-on-peer abuse will receive tailored support to meet their individual needs. Children who display abusive behaviour will also receive support to help them change their behaviour. Parents/Carers involvement will be fundamental to the process of supporting children involved in situations of peer-on-peer abuse and where appropriate the school may also request the involvement of other relevant agencies.

Please find attached a leaflet about peer-on-peer abuse to share with your child at home. For more information about our policy on peer-on-peer abuse please see our school safeguarding policy which can be found on the school website. Here you will also find some additional resources to support your understanding of peer-on-peer abuse.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office and we will be happy to help.



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O. Prince

Miss Prince
Pupil Engagement and Welfare Officer
Anti-Bullying Champion

Bennett

Mrs Bennett
Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



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Healthy Schools

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