



BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

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Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together

Monday 20th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

Abuse is defined as any action carried out to intentionally harm another person. When abuse takes place between children this is known as child-on-child abuse. Child-on-child 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

In assemblies we taught the children about child-on-child abuse. Concepts have been presented to the children in an age-appropriate way and resulting questions have been handled sensitively. Children have learnt what child-on-child abuse is, and how to respond if they think it might be taking place. As bullying is a type of child-on-child 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 child-on-child 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 child-on-child 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 child-on-child 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 child-on-child abuse and where appropriate the school may also request the involvement of other relevant agencies.

Please find attached a leaflet about child-on-child abuse to share with your child at home. For more information about our policy on child-on-child 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 child-on-child 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.

O. Lyster

Mrs Lyster
Pupil Engagement and Welfare Officer
Anti-Bullying Champion

Bennett

Mrs Bennett
Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



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