

Winchmore Tutors Child-on-Child Abuse Policy

Version 1.7 July 2026



Legislative Framework

This policy should be read alongside:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR
- Online Safety Act 2023
- Winchmore Tutors Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Principle

Winchmore Tutors recognises that child-on-child abuse may occur both inside and outside educational settings, online and offline.

Child-on-child abuse will never be dismissed as:

- banter
- teasing
- growing up
- part of a relationship
- just having a laugh

All concerns will be taken seriously and responded to appropriately.

What is Child-on-child abuse?

Winchmore Tutors recognises that child-on-child abuse is a safeguarding issue and can occur both online and offline.

Child-on-child abuse occurs when a child or young person under the age of 18 causes harm to another child or young person. It can occur between individuals or groups and may be a one-off incident or part of a pattern of behaviour.

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Child-on-child abuse may include, but is not limited to:

- Bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise causing physical harm
- Emotional abuse and coercive behaviour
- Abuse within intimate personal relationships
- Sexual violence including rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- Sexual harassment, including sexual comments, jokes, gestures and online sexual harassment
- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude or semi-nude images and videos
- Upskirting
- Initiation or hazing behaviour
- Hate-motivated abuse
- Online abuse facilitated through technology

Online Child-on-Child Abuse

Winchmore Tutors recognises that child-on-child abuse may occur through the use of technology.

Online abuse may include:

- Cyberbullying
- Online sexual harassment
- Sharing harmful content
- Image-based abuse
- Sharing nude or semi-nude images
- Sextortion
- Deepfake or AI-generated images
- Online coercion
- Threats made through messaging applications, gaming platforms or social media
- Online hate incidents

Online abuse will be treated with the same seriousness as abuse occurring face-to-face.

It is recognised that many forms of child-on-child abuse can be online, occur via social media or other electronic platforms.

Who is at Risk?

Any child can be affected by child-on-child abuse.

Some children may be more vulnerable, including:

- Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Children with mental health difficulties
- Looked-after and previously looked-after children
- Young carers

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- Children who have experienced previous abuse
- Children who may be subject to discrimination
- Children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or questioning
- Children from minority ethnic or faith backgrounds

The organisation recognises that both boys and girls can be victims and perpetrators of child-on-child abuse.

Protected Characteristics

Some child-on-child abuse may be motivated by prejudice, discrimination or hatred.

This may relate to:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Gender reassignment

Such incidents will be treated seriously and may require additional safeguarding action.

Supporting Children Affected by Abuse

The wishes, feelings and safety of the child affected by abuse will always be central to decision-making.

Winchmore Tutors will:

- Listen and take concerns seriously
- Protect children from further harm
- Provide appropriate support
- Respect confidentiality where possible
- Work with parents and external agencies where appropriate

What are the signs of abuse?

Signs and signals that a child or young person is suffering from child-on-child abuse are likely to reflect those shown by children or young people suffering from other kinds of abuse.

What should you do if you suspect a girl or boy is being subject to child on child abuse?

Report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the [WT Child Protection Policy](#).

Any member of staff, tutor, volunteer or contractor who receives a disclosure or becomes aware of a concern must:

- Remain calm
- Listen carefully
- Reassure the child they have done the right thing by speaking out
- Avoid asking leading questions

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- Make a factual written record as soon as possible
- Report the concern immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Staff must not investigate concerns themselves.

Risk Assessment

Following a report, the DSL will consider:

- The nature of the incident
- The ages of those involved
- The wishes and feelings of those involved
- The level of harm caused
- Any continuing risks
- Whether other children may be affected
- Whether external agencies should be involved

Children Displaying Harmful Behaviour

The child alleged to have caused harm will also be considered within a safeguarding framework.

The organisation will consider:

- Their welfare needs
- Any underlying vulnerabilities
- Previous safeguarding concerns
- Support requirements
- Appropriate sanctions and interventions

A child displaying harmful behaviour may themselves be in need of safeguarding support.

If you witness abusive behaviour that could be illegal (such as a violent or racist act) or you believe that any young person could be at immediate risk due to the abusive behaviour of others, you should contact the police.

Recording and Monitoring

All concerns, disclosures, allegations and incidents of child-on-child abuse will be recorded in the safeguarding system.

Records will include:

- Date and time
- Nature of concern
- Individuals involved
- Actions taken
- Risk assessments completed
- Outcomes and follow-up actions

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Records will be stored securely in accordance with the Data Protection Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

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Signed:

Craig Varney : Winchmore Tutors DSL