LOVE, COURAGE & RESPECT
Learning and Achieving Through Love, Courage and Respect

BRIGHSTONE C.E. PRIMARY

SCHOOL

Allegations Against Another Child

Approved by: FGB **Date:** September 2026

Next review due by: September 2027

A Statement of Policy

Allegations against other Children

At Brighstone C.E. Primary school, we believe that all children have a right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults and other children in the school.

We recognise that some children will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy.

Safeguarding allegations

Occasionally, allegations may be made against children by others in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature. Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a child, some of the following features will be found.

The allegation:

- is made against an older child and refers to their behaviour towards a younger child or a more vulnerable child
- is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- raises risk factors for other children in the school
- indicates that other children may have been affected by this child
- indicates that young people outside the school may be affected by this child

Examples of safeguarding issues against a child could include:

Physical Abuse

- violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to use drugs or alcohol

Emotional Abuse

- blackmail or extortion
- threats and intimidation

Sexual Abuse

- indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults
- forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting

Sexual Exploitation

- encouraging other children to attend inappropriate parties
- photographing or videoing other children performing indecent acts

In areas where gangs are prevalent, older children may attempt to recruit younger children using any or all of the above methods. Young people suffering from sexual exploitation themselves may be forced to recruit other young people under threat of violence.

Minimising the risk of safeguarding concerns towards children from other children

On occasion, some children will present a safeguarding risk to other children. The school should be informed that the young person raises safeguarding concerns, for example, they are coming back into school following a period in custody or they have experienced serious abuse themselves.

These children will need an individual risk management plan to ensure that other children are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations. There is a need to balance the tension between privacy and safeguarding.

What to do?

- When an allegation is made by a child against another child, members of staff should consider whether the complaint raises a safeguarding concern. If there is a safeguarding concern the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be informed.
- A factual record should be made of the allegation, but no attempt at this stage should be made to investigate the circumstances.
- The DSL should contact social services to discuss the case. It is possible that social services are already aware of safeguarding concerns around this young person. The DSL will follow through the outcomes of the discussion and make a social services referral where appropriate.
- The DSL will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the safeguarding file.
- If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police should be contacted at the earliest opportunity and parents informed (of both the child being complained about and the alleged victim).
- It may be appropriate to exclude the child being complained about for a period of time according to the school's behaviour policy and procedures.
- Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough school investigation should take place into the matter using the school's usual disciplinary procedures.
- In situations where the school considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment should be prepared along with a preventative, supervision plan.
- The plan should be monitored and a date set for a follow-up evaluation with everyone concerned.