

Safeguarding Statement

Five Acre Wood School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and requires all staff to share this commitment.

Five Acre Wood School adopts the KCC Child Protection Policy which is updated at least annually. Sarah Costain is the Designated Safeguarding Lead, however there are also appointed Deputy DSL's. They are Francesca Newman, Peggy Murphy, Tim Williams, Kirstie Hemingway, Emma Athwal, Janine Hercock, Jamie Cronk, Matt Jones, Jo O'Connor, Sam Hazle, Demi Lockett, Emma Russell, Leanne Bowden and Karen Robinson-Jones.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility regardless of their role in the school. All staff have a duty to report concerns. The system used to do this is called Myconcern®. This is a web-based system that is used widely across Kent, by many educational settings.

Staff Training

Every member of staff receives annual safeguarding and child protection training. This usually forms part of the staff development days in September and covers a range of national and local safeguarding issues. This includes raising awareness around child-on-child abuse, what constitutes child-on-child abuse, how to address these concerns and how to report them.

Finally

Should you wish to view the Child-on-Child Abuse Policy in full please visit our website or speak to a member of the staff team who will be happy to provide a copy of this for you.

Five Acre Wood School
Boughton Lane, Maidstone
Kent, ME15 9QF

Tel: 01622 743925

Email: office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.fiveacrewood.co.uk>

Principal

Mrs Peggy Murphy

Accessing Support

Five Acre Wood works closely with partner agencies to safeguard children. This includes, but is not limited to, Social Services, NHS, Kent police, Early help, and a range of community partners.

If you think you would benefit from additional support please speak to TEAM who can signpost you to the most appropriate agency.

TEAM can be contacted on:

01622 743925 and select option 4

Child-on-Child Abuse Policy information for Parents

September 2025

**This leaflet contains information
regarding Child Protection and
Safeguarding procedures at Five Acre
Wood.**



All staff understand the school's policy and procedures with regards to Child-on-Child abuse. This abuse can:

- Be motivated by perceived differences e.g. on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other differences
- Result in significant, long lasting and traumatic isolation, intimidation or violence to the victim; vulnerable adults are at particular risk of harm Children or young people who harm others may have additional or complex needs such as;
- Significant disruption in their own lives
- Exposure to domestic abuse or witnessing or suffering from abuse
- Educational under-achievement
- Involved in crime Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is the priority.

Staff Training

Children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Such abuse should be taken as seriously as abuse by adults and should be subject to the same child protection procedures.

Staff at Five Acre Wood School will not dismiss abusive behaviour as normal between young people and will not develop high thresholds before acting.

Staff at Five Acre Wood School are aware of the potential uses of information technology for bullying and abusive behaviour between young people. Staff at Five Acre Wood School are aware of the added vulnerability of children and young people who have been the victims of violent crime (for example mugging), including the risk that they may respond to this by abusing younger or weaker children.

Our Approach

Every member of staff receives annual safeguarding and child protection training. This usually forms part of the staff development days in September and covers a range of national and local safeguarding issues. This includes raising awareness around Child-on-Child abuse, what constitutes this, how to address these concerns and how to report them.

What is Child-on-Child Abuse?

Peer on peer abuse is a behaviour by an individual or group, intending to physically, sexually or emotionally hurt others. All staff at Five Acre Wood are aware of safeguarding issues around child-on-child abuse including;

- Bullying (including cyber bullying)
- Gender based violence
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes, and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- Up-skirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm
- Sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals

Final Thoughts

If you have any questions or concerns regarding child-on-child abuse please contact one of the DSL's who will be happy to discuss this with you.

The DSL's at Five Acre Wood school are:

Sarah Costain (Lead DSL)
Peggy Murphy (Deputy DSL)
Tim Williams (Deputy DSL)
Kirstie Hemingway (Deputy DSL)
Emma Athwal (Deputy DSL)
Emma Russell (Deputy DSL)
Sam Hazle (Deputy DSL)
Jo O'Connor (Deputy DSL)
Demi Lockett (Deputy DSL)
Janine Hercock (Deputy DSL)
Karen Robinson-Jones (Deputy DSL)
Jamie Cronk (Deputy DSL)
Matt Jones (Deputy DSL)
Francesca Newman (Deputy DSL)