

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School



Allegations of Abuse Made Against Other Pupils

At Dunmow St Mary's we recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. We will never pass abuse off as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'.

Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under our school's behaviour policy but our child protection policy may also apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This may apply where the alleged behaviour:

- Is serious, or potentially a criminal offence
- Could put pupils in the school at risk
- Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol
- Involves sexual exploitation such as indecent exposure, sexual assault or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos.

If a pupil makes an allegation of abuse against another pupil all staff at Dunmow St Mary's will:

- Tell one of the designated safeguarding leads or report the concern on 'MyConcern'
- The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) will contact the Early help and Advice Hub as well as the police if the allegation involves a potentially criminal offence
- The DSL will put a support plan in place for all children involved and a risk assessment with a named person they can talk to if necessary
- The DSL will contact the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (EWMHS) if appropriate

At Dunmow St Mary's we will minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse by:

- Challenging any form of derogatory or sexualised language or behaviour
- Being vigilant to issues that particularly affect different genders
- Ensure that our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) curriculum helps to educate pupils about appropriate behaviour, risk taking, consent and other issues
- Ensuring that pupils know that there are adults in school they can talk to