



CONTACT

Mrs H Keelan-Edwards
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
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Our local Police School Liaison Officer is:
Mr M Powell

Local Safeguarding risks include:

- Child on Child abuse – online
- Child on Child abuse – sexual harassment/sexual violence
- Child Criminal Exploitation/ County Lines

Internet Safety

Top tips for parents and carers
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Top tips for children and young people
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-young-people>

PSHCEe

The RGS PSHCEe Curriculum is available here
<https://www.ripongrammar.co.uk/academic/departments/pschce/>

Parents can contact the head of PSHCEe, Ms Mars, on marsh@ripongrammar.com to discuss any aspect of the curriculum.

PSHCEe is always more effective if parents can talk to their children about these topics and reinforce messages about making safe and informed choices, resisting peer pressure, and seeking help if they need it.

Understanding Child-on-Child Abuse

Child-on-child abuse refers to harmful behaviour between children, including physical, sexual, or emotional abuse; sexual harassment; bullying (including online); coercive control; hate incidents; and hazing or initiation. These behaviours can happen both in person and online. Abuse affects everyone involved. Even witnessing it can cause children distress and fear. Children who harm others may also be dealing with difficult experiences, trauma, or exploitation.

How Common Is It?

Recent national data shows the scale of the issue:

Over 20,000 violent incidents occurred in schools in England and Wales in 2024, including 150 knife crimes.

52% of recorded child sexual abuse cases involve harm between children.

1 in 10 girls aged 11–16 have missed school to avoid sexual harassment.

In 2021, schools reported 8,000 allegations of rape or sexual violence.

34.9% of 10–15-year-olds experienced in-person bullying, and 19.1% experienced it online in 2023.

These figures highlight why awareness, early intervention, and supportive conversations at home and school are so important.

Signs to Look Out For

Parents and carers may notice changes that could suggest a child is experiencing harmful behaviour. These signs can include:

- Reluctance to attend school or loss of interest in usual activities
- Rumours or “coded” talk among peers suggesting concerning interactions
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Emotional distress, anxiety, or low mood
- Becoming withdrawn or isolated
- Low self-esteem
- Tiredness or changes in sleeping patterns
- Alcohol or substance misuse
- Sudden changes in behaviour
- Behaviour that seems unusual for their age
- Acting out or displaying harmful behaviours towards others

No single sign proves abuse, but a combination of changes is always worth exploring.

What to Do If You're Worried About Your Child

If you suspect your child may be experiencing child-on-child abuse—whether in school, online, or within their friendship group—please reach out. Talking early can prevent situations from escalating.

You can:

- Contact your child's school or pastoral/safeguarding team (details on the school website)
- Speak with your child's GP or another health professional
- Talk calmly with your child and reassure them that they are not to blame
- Keep a record of any incidents, messages, or concerning behaviour
- Seek specialist advice from national helplines or support organisations

Your concerns will always be taken seriously. Working together helps us keep all children safe, supported, and heard.

Additional Information:

Local Safeguarding Alert: Police have been notified by a parent in our school community, following an incident of indecent exposure by a male towards two teenagers at approximately 7:00 pm in the vicinity of the Cathedral at the start of February.

Advice

- Stay alert in the area and encourage young people not to walk alone.
- Report any suspicious behaviour to 999 (emergencies) or 101 (non-emergencies).
- Do not approach the individual; prioritise personal safety.
- Reassure young people and encourage them to speak to a trusted adult if concerned.
- Avoid sharing unverified information on social media.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly or one of the safeguarding team.