

RED ROSE SCHOOL

DEALING WITH

ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Updated: November 2018

Section 7

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We will use Pan Lancashire procedures which are also based on DfE statutory guidance **Keeping Children Safe in Education**.

http://panlancashirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_allegations.html

The procedures below aim to strike a balance between the need to protect children from abuse, and the need to protect staff and volunteers from false or unfounded allegations; in all cases the LEAs conduct policy is followed along with advice and guidance from the school's legal advisers.

- Children who report to any member of staff that they have been abused by another member of staff must be listened to and heard, whatever form their attempts to communicate their worries take.
- "Listened to and heard" means just that; on no account should suggestions be made to children as to alternative explanations for their worries. There should be no presumptions, regardless of a child's school or home background, that the immediate allegations are unfounded or malicious except where there have been previous unfounded allegations. In such cases the Headteacher/DSP or Deputy DSP has the discretion to deal with as she sees fit .
- Staff should make it clear that they are bound to pass on what they were told to the Headteacher/DSP or Deputy DSP (unless the allegation is made against either of them).
- Staff receiving an allegation of abuse about another member of staff must report the matter immediately to the Headteacher/DSP or Deputy DSP, unless the Headteacher/DSP or Deputy DSP is the person against whom the allegation is made. If an allegation is made about the Headteacher/DSP or Deputy DSP the matter must be reported to either the LADO.
- The member of staff to whom the allegation has been made must make a written, signed and dated account of the allegations as soon as possible (and certainly within 24 hours).
- Immediately an allegation is made the Headteacher/DSP or Deputy DSP, as appropriate, will:
 - Seek advice from/consult the LADO • Countersign and date the written account of the person reporting the allegation.

- Obtain, as necessary, further details of the allegation in writing, signed and dated by the person who receives the allegation (not the child who is the subject of the allegation).
 - Record any information about times, dates, locations and names of potential witnesses.
- If after urgent initial consideration by the senior personnel, as outlined above, the allegation suggests that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm, or where it is possible that a criminal act has been committed, there must be an immediate referral to Social Services in accordance with Pan Lancashire procedures.
 - If there is any doubt in these matters, then guidance/clarification must be sought from the LADO.
 - Some allegations made do not require referral under local child protection procedures as detailed above. Those instances are as follows:
 - Where the allegation relates to the use of reasonable force to restrain a pupil, it is appropriate for the Headteacher to deal with the matter at school level. An allegation of assault beyond the use of reasonable force would however need to be dealt with in accordance with the local child protection procedures as detailed above.
 - Where following initial consideration it is absolutely clear to the LA lead officer and the Headteacher (or where the allegation involved the Headteacher) that the allegation is demonstrably false by virtue of the fact that the immediate circumstances of the allegation show that it would not be possible for the allegation to be true, then again the matter can be dealt with at school level. However, in these circumstances, it should be borne in mind that, if a child has made an obviously false allegation, this may well be a strong indicator of abuse elsewhere which will require further exploration. The best way for this to be achieved is through a CAF referral.
 - The allegation may represent inappropriate behaviour or poor practice by a member of staff which needs to be considered under local disciplinary procedures.
 - The school must keep records of any allegations of abuse against any member of staff working in a paid or voluntary capacity, whatever the outcome.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OR ASSAULT BY PUPILS AGAINST OTHER PUPILS IN SCHOOL

It is recognised that these are potentially complex and sensitive scenarios. If the allegation is made to a member of staff then that person should pass on the information immediately to the Headteacher/DSP or Deputy DSP and also make a written record within 24 hours, as with any other child protection issue.

Where it is unclear as to what action is appropriate the LADO will be consulted for advice. As with all child protection issues it is not the school's role to investigate. That role belongs to the Police and/or Social Services.

If an investigation by Social Services and/or Police is not to take place then the matter will be subject to the school's behaviour management policy.

LA guidance will be followed by liaising with the relevant Area Pupil Access Officer and Education Welfare staff if an exclusion is being considered for one of the pupils involved.

If the allegation has been made outside of school, then the Headteacher/DSP or Deputy DSP will seek to ascertain the overall situation, for example from parents and any other agencies involved. Short term measures may be needed for the protection of one or more pupils involved. This could be a complex issue and in such a case the LADO will be approached for advice.

Where an allegation is being investigated by Social Services and/or the Police the expectation is that within 14 days a multi-agency planning meeting will be convened by Social Services, one aspect of which will be to consider risk management and thus the education, accommodation and supervision of the pupils concerned.
