Middleforth Church of England Primary School

Child on Child Abuse Policy	
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Let Your Light Shine – Matthew 5:16

Through the Data Breach Policy for support staff, the school will promote and teach the values we learn based on the example of the Christian faith:

- Forgiveness
- Respect for self and others
- Reconciliation and redemption
- Truth and honesty
- Trust and fairness
- Tolerance and compassion
- Self-discipline
- Respect for property and the environment
- Politeness

Such values, in turn, promote not only the Christian ethos and aims of Middleforth Church of England Primary School, but assist in the preparation of the children for the responsibilities and duties of adult life.

Vision

As a caring, Christian community, we aspire to 'let our light shine'. We will open up the world to celebrate God's wonderful creation and foster a sense of awe and wonder.
We will nurture our God given talents to ensure that everyone reaches their full potential academically, socially and spiritually.
'Let your light shine Matthew 5.16'

1. Feeling safe and happy at Middleforth



At Middleforth, we want every child to feel safe, respected and able to learn. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and the adults in school will always think about what is best for you.

Sometimes harmful behaviour happens between children. It can happen in school, out of school or online. Even when adults have not been told about it, it may still be happening.

Abuse is NEVER OK. It must never be dismissed as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".

2. What is child-on-child abuse?

Child-on-child abuse is harmful behaviour by one child, or a group of children, towards another child. A child means anyone under the age of 18.

It can happen face-to-face or online. It may happen once or more than once. Sometimes a child may not realise straight away that what is happening is wrong.

Child-on-child abuse can include:

- bullying, including online bullying
- racist, faith-targeted or other discriminatory behaviour
- harmful behaviour in relationships between children
- physical harm, threats of harm, or harm involving a weapon
- harmful sexual behaviour, sexual harassment or sexual violence
- sexual images being made, changed or shared, including images created or altered using artificial intelligence (AI)
- pressuring or forcing someone to take part in sexual behaviour they do not want to do
- upskirting, which means taking a picture under someone's clothing without permission and is against the law
- initiation or hazing-type behaviour, where someone is pressured or harmed as part of joining a group

3. Bullying and discriminatory behaviour



Bullying can hurt someone physically or emotionally. It can also happen online.

- Physical bullying: hitting, kicking, pushing, biting, hair pulling or hurting someone.
- Emotional bullying: leaving someone out on purpose, frightening them or repeatedly trying to control them.
- Verbal bullying: name-calling, threats or cruel comments.
- Cyberbullying: harmful messages, posts, images or behaviour online.
- Discriminatory behaviour: treating someone badly because of who they are or something about them, including racism, faith-targeted abuse, sexism, misogyny or other prejudice.

Sexism is treating someone unfairly because of their sex. Misogyny means harmful or disrespectful attitudes or behaviour towards girls and women. These behaviours should be challenged early so they do not become accepted or get worse.

4. Harmful sexual behaviour and sexual harassment



Sexual behaviour between children can sometimes be harmful. This can happen through words, actions, messages, images or online behaviour. It is never acceptable to pressure, frighten, embarrass or force another child.

Examples can include:

- sexual comments, jokes, names or rumours
- unwanted touching or trying to remove or move someone's clothing
- showing or sharing sexual material
- sexual messages or comments online
- repeatedly asking someone to do something sexual after they have said no
- pressuring or forcing someone into sexual behaviour.

Your body belongs to you. You can say NO. If something feels wrong, uncomfortable or unsafe, tell a trusted adult.

5. Nudes, semi-nudes and AI-created images

Sometimes children hear words such as “nudes”, “semi-nudes” or “nude selfies”. These mean pictures, videos or livestream images showing a child partly or fully without clothes.

It can be harmful to pressure someone to make or share an image. Pictures can also be changed or created using AI so that they appear sexual even when the real person did not make that image.

If anyone asks you for an image that makes you uncomfortable, or an image of you is shared or changed without your permission, tell a trusted adult. You will not be blamed for asking for help.

6. Healthy relationships



Healthy friendships and relationships should help you feel safe and respected.

In a healthy relationship:

- you can be yourself
- you can say no and your answer is respected
- you listen to each other
- you are kind and honest
- you feel safe and supported
- no one tries to control or frighten the other person.

A relationship may be unsafe if someone:

- hurts you or threatens to hurt you
- controls who you see, what you do or what you wear
- calls you names or puts you down
- pressures you to do things you do not want to do
- keeps going after you have said no
- uses messages, images or social media to embarrass, threaten or control you.

7. How might I know someone needs help?



There is no single sign. Someone might tell you directly, or you may notice that something has changed.

They might:

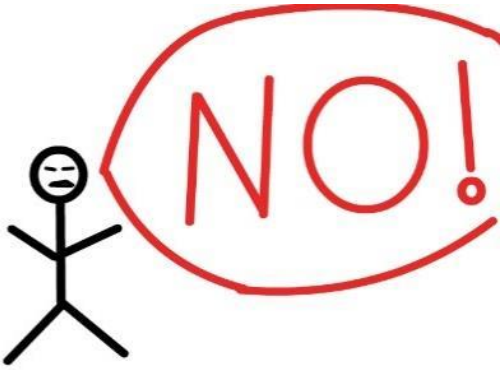
- seem worried, frightened, quiet or withdrawn
- have an injury
- avoid school or certain places or people
- have changes in behaviour, friendships, sleep or attendance
- be upset by messages or things happening online
- say that someone is hurting, frightening, pressuring or threatening them.

You do not have to work out whether abuse has happened. If you are worried, tell an adult.

8. What should I do if something happens to me?







- Tell a trusted adult as soon as you can.
- If the first person cannot help, keep telling until someone does.
- If it is safe, move away from the person or situation.
- Do not put yourself in danger to prove what happened.
- Remember: it is not your fault.

Adults in school should listen carefully, take you seriously and act to help keep you safe. They may need to share the information with other adults who can help, but they should explain what happens next in a way you can understand.

9. What if I am worried about another child?

Tell a trusted adult, even if you did not see what happened yourself. Do not put yourself in danger or try to investigate. Getting help is the right thing to do.

10. Who can I talk to?

DSL's at Middleforth



Nicola Pilkington – Headteacher, Lead DSL



Nichola Allton – Deputy Head, Back up DSL



Stacey Knight – Family Support Worker Back up DSL



Joe Noblet – Class Teacher, Back up DSL

You can speak to any trusted adult in school, including your teacher, a teaching assistant, the Family Support Worker or one of our safeguarding leads.

Our safeguarding leads (DSLs) are specially trained adults who help when a child may not be safe. Check the current safeguarding display in school for the names and photographs of the DSL team.

If you think you or another child is in immediate danger, get an adult straight away. In an emergency, adults can contact the emergency services.

11. How can we help prevent child-on-child abuse?



We all help make Middleforth safer when we:

- are kind and respectful
- respect personal space and boundaries
- accept “no” and stop when someone asks us to stop
- challenge unkind, sexist, racist, faith-targeted or discriminatory language safely by telling an adult
- use technology responsibly and tell an adult about harmful online behaviour
- include others and ask for help when something does not feel right
- take part in PSHE, Relationships and Health Education, worship and other learning about staying safe.

Remember: harmful behaviour is not normal just because other people are doing it. It is always OK to speak up.

Other places that can help

- Childline - a free service for children and young people.
- CEOP - for help and reporting concerns about online sexual abuse or exploitation.
- NSPCC - information and support about keeping children safe.

This child-friendly policy supports, but does not replace, the school’s full safeguarding and child protection policies. It has been refreshed to reflect Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, in force from 1 September 2026.