Morley Primary – Weekly Safeguarding Bulletin

Theme – Child on Child Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour – spotting the signs & supporting children

17th November 2025

Welcome to our safeguarding bulletin for parents. Each week, we share important information to help keep our children safe, informed, and supported.

Theme: Child-on-Child Abuse & Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB)

Child-on-child abuse refers to any form of physical, sexual, emotional or online abuse between children. Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) refers to inappropriate, problematic, abusive, or violent sexual behaviour that is displayed by a child and is developmentally inappropriate. This can occur both in person and online, including at school, within friendship groups, or in the wider community.

Key Examples May Include:

- Unwanted touching or inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Sexual comments, jokes, name-calling, gestures or harassment
- Sharing or requesting indecent images online
- Physical violence linked to relationships or controlling behaviour
- Pressure, coercion or threats relating to sexual behaviour

Signs a Child May Need Help

- Sudden changes in mood, behaviour, or friendships
- Anxiety, withdrawal, fearfulness, avoiding school or certain peers
- Sexualised language or actions not appropriate for age

- Secrecy around devices or relationships
- Physical marks or emotional distress

Talking to Children & Trusted Adults

Open communication is essential. Encourage children to:
- Speak to a trusted adult if something feels wrong, confusing, embarrassing or uncomfortable
- Understand that no one should pressure or persuade them
- Recognise consent and personal boundaries
- Report online content or messages that are sexual, worrying or abusive

Trusted adults may include parents, family members, teachers, pastoral staff or other known professionals. Children should always know there are safe people they can talk to.

Local Context – Derbyshire & Derby City

Safeguarding partners across Derbyshire and Derby City continue to raise awareness of child-on-child abuse and harmful sexual behaviour, particularly where social media, group chats, gaming platforms and community friendships overlap. Families are encouraged to maintain open conversations about relationships, friendships, digital communication and consent. Schools, families, and community services work together to ensure early intervention, education and support.

Support and Information Links

- NSPCC – https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/peer-on-peer-abuse/
- Safer Derbyshire – https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/
- Derby & Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership – https://derbyshirescp.org.uk/
- Childline – https://www.childline.org.uk/
- ThinkUKnow – https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Morley Community Safeguarding Page

Parents and carers can visit and share our dedicated community safeguarding page for support, advice and reporting:

🔗 https://www.morley.derbyshire.sch.uk/can-i-talk-to-you-safeguarding-concerns/

Designated Safeguarding Leads

If you or your child are worried about anything, speak to one of our DSL team:
- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Taylor
- Deputy DSLs: Mrs Taylor, Mrs Richards, Miss Smith

You can also report confidentially through our online community reporting tool on the link above.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mr Taylor