

Child-on-Child (*Student Friendly*)

Feeling Safe and Supported at Bristol Metropolitan Academy

At Bristol Metropolitan Academy, we are committed to ensuring that every student feels safe, valued, and respected both in and outside of school. If you are ever worried about something that has happened to you or someone else, it is important to speak up. Our policy focuses on child-on-child abuse and how we can work together to prevent it and support those affected.

We are here to help you by:

- Teaching you what child-on-child abuse is.
- Helping you understand what to do if you or someone else is experiencing abuse.
- Ensuring you know which staff members you can talk to for support.

What is Child-on-Child Abuse?

Child-on-child abuse happens when one young person hurts or mistreats another. This could involve friends, classmates, or other students at school. Abuse can be physical, emotional, verbal, or even online. It is important to recognise abuse so that it can be stopped.

Abuse can include:

- Physical harm (hitting, kicking, pushing, or other violence).
- Emotional harm (insults, threats, exclusion, or manipulation).
- Verbal abuse (name-calling, racist, sexist, or homophobic comments).
- Cyberbullying (sending hurtful messages online or spreading rumours).
- Sexual harassment (inappropriate touching, sexual comments, or sharing explicit images).

Bullying and Peer Pressure

Bullying can take many forms, and it is never acceptable. If you are being bullied, or know someone who is, you should speak to a trusted adult in school. Types of bullying include:

- **Emotional bullying:** Making someone feel left out or controlling their actions.
- **Physical bullying:** Hurting someone physically through hitting, kicking, or pushing.
- **Verbal bullying:** Using insults, racist or homophobic language, or threats.
- **Cyberbullying:** Sending mean messages, sharing embarrassing photos, or spreading rumours online.

Youth Produced Imagery (Sexting)

Sharing inappropriate pictures, videos, or messages is illegal if the person is under 18. Even if you do not send the images yourself, possessing or sharing them can have serious consequences. If someone pressures you to send explicit pictures, it is considered abuse. Speak to a teacher or safeguarding officer if you are worried about this.

Sexual Harassment and Consent

Sexual harassment includes any unwanted sexual behaviour that makes someone feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, or scared. This could happen online, in messages, or in person. Examples include:

- Making sexual comments about someone's appearance.
- Calling someone inappropriate sexual names.
- Sharing sexual images or making sexual jokes.
- Pressuring someone into sexual activity.

If you feel uncomfortable due to someone's behaviour, it is important to report it.

What to Do If You Need Help

If you are worried about your safety or someone else's, you can speak to any of the following staff at Bristol Metropolitan Academy:

- Your Tutor
- House Teams
- Safeguarding Teams
- Any trusted teacher or staff member

You can also email or visit the school's safeguarding office if you prefer to speak privately.

Relationships and Respect

Every relationship—whether with friends, family, or a partner—should be based on mutual respect. A healthy relationship makes you feel happy, safe, and valued. If a relationship makes you feel scared, confused, or pressured, it may be harmful. If you have concerns about any relationship, you can talk to a member of staff in confidence.

Our Commitment to You

At Bristol Metropolitan Academy, we will always take your concerns seriously. If you report abuse or bullying, we will act to support you and ensure that the behaviour stops. No one should feel unsafe at school, and we are here to help.

If you have any concerns, please speak up—we are listening.