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Safeguarding Bulletin: Understanding and Preventing Child-on-Child Abuse

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Parkwall Primary, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils are our highest priorities. We are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment where all children feel valued and protected. This bulletin aims to raise awareness of **child-on-child abuse** and how we can work together to prevent it.

What is Child-on-Child Abuse?

Child-on-child abuse refers to any form of abuse inflicted by one child on another. This can include:

- **Physical abuse** – hitting, kicking, biting, or any other form of physical harm.
- **Verbal abuse** – name-calling, insults, or threats.
- **Sexual abuse or harassment** – inappropriate touching, sharing of explicit content, or pressure to engage in sexual behaviour.
- **Online abuse** – cyberbullying, sharing inappropriate messages or images, and exclusion from online groups.
- **Emotional abuse** – manipulation, intimidation, or persistent bullying.

Signs to Look Out For

Children who are experiencing abuse may exhibit:

- Unexplained injuries or frequent bruises.
- Changes in mood or behaviour, such as becoming withdrawn, anxious, or aggressive.
- Reluctance to attend school or participate in activities.
- Loss of confidence or self-esteem.
- Sleep disturbances or changes in appetite.

How Can Parents Help?

- **Talk to your child** – Encourage open conversations about friendships and experiences at school.
- **Monitor online activity** – Be aware of your child's online interactions and educate them about safe internet use.
- **Teach respect and kindness** – Reinforce the importance of treating others with kindness and respect.
- **Report concerns** – If you suspect your child or another child is experiencing abuse, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team immediately.

How We Support Children at School

- We have clear policies and procedures to address child-on-child abuse.
- Our staff receive regular safeguarding training.
- We encourage a culture of kindness and respect through assemblies, lessons, and peer support initiatives.
- We provide safe spaces where children can report concerns to trusted adults.

If you have any concerns or need further guidance, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Waller by emailing the school parkwallprimary@sgmail.org.uk Together, we can ensure our children grow in a safe, respectful, and supportive environment.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.

Parkwall Primary Safeguarding Team