

Ormiston Forge Academy

Allegations made by a student against another student Policy

November 2015



Approved by the Local Governing Body under powers delegated by the Governing Body: **by LGB December 2015.**

Review period: **LGB meeting March 2017**

Aims

At Ormiston Forge Academy we believe that all students have a right to attend our academy and learn in a safe environment. Students should be free from harmful behaviour by other students. We recognise that some students will sometimes negatively affect the learning and wellbeing of others and their behaviour will be dealt with using the academy's Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Occasionally however, allegations may be made against students by other students in the academy, which are of a safeguarding nature

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding policy and Behaviour for Learning Policy

Safeguarding Allegations

Safeguarding allegations raised by students against other students may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and radicalisation.

It is likely that to be considered a safeguarding allegation against a student, some of the following features will be found;

- The allegation is made against an older student and refers to their behaviour towards a younger student or a more vulnerable student
- The allegation is of a serious nature, possibly including a criminal offence
- The allegation raises safeguarding risk factors for other students in the academy

Examples of safeguarding issues against a pupil could include:

Physical Abuse

- Violence, particularly pre-planned
- forcing others to smoke, use drugs or alcohol

Emotional Abuse

- Blackmail or extortion
- Threats and intimidation

Sexual Abuse

- Indecent exposure, indecent touching or serious sexual assaults
- Forcing others to watch pornography or take part in sexting

Child Sexual Exploitation

- Photographing or videoing other students performing indecent acts

Radicalisation/extremism

- Encouraging other students into radicalisation/extremism

Minimising the risk of safeguarding concerns towards students from other students

- Appropriate adult supervision will be provided to ensure students are safeguarded
- As part of the PSHE curriculum, students will learn about safeguarding themselves and others and assessing risk

It is recognized that on occasion, some students will present a safeguarding risk to other students; These students will have an individual risk assessment plans to ensure that other students are kept safe and they themselves are not laid open to malicious allegations

Procedures

- When an allegation is made by a student against another student or inappropriate behaviour is observed, the members of staff should report the allegation immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Person; Louise Kay (Vice Principal – Inclusion) who will make a written record of the concerns
- The Designated Safeguarding Person will contact Children’s Social Care to discuss the case and follow through the outcomes of this discussion making a Children’s Social Care referral where appropriate.
- After seeking advice from Children’s Social Care parents will be informed of the allegations.
- The Designated Safeguarding Person will make a record of the concern, the discussion and any outcome and keep a copy in the files of both students’ files
- If the allegation indicates a potential criminal offence has taken place, the police will be contacted at the earliest opportunity and parents informed (of both the student being complained about and the alleged victim, unless police have advised against doing so).
- It may be appropriate to exclude the student being complained about for a period of time according to the school’s behaviour policy and procedures.
- Where neither social services nor the police accept the complaint, a thorough academy investigation should take place into the matter using the academy’s usual disciplinary procedures
- In situations where the academy considers a safeguarding risk is present, a risk assessment will be carried out in respect of the student.