

# THE HAVEN

*Operated by the Autistic Girls Network charity — 1196655 (England and Wales), SC054837 (Scotland)*

## Child-on-Child Abuse Policy (Summary for parents)

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| <b>Document</b>      | Child-on-Child Abuse Policy (Summary for parents) |
| <b>Version</b>       | 08.26                                             |
| <b>Status</b>        | live                                              |
| <b>Last reviewed</b> | 26 August 2026                                    |
| <b>Next review</b>   | 29 April 2027                                     |
| <b>Owner</b>         | Designated Safeguarding Lead                      |
| <b>Approved by</b>   | Proprietor                                        |

**Date:** August 2026

**Review Date:** April 2027

**Coordinator:** the Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Nominated Governor:** the Safeguarding Governor

**Version:** v08.26

### Policy Statement and Purpose

At The Haven, we recognise that children can and do abuse other children. This behaviour is harmful, unacceptable, and a safeguarding concern. We are committed to creating a culture where child-on-child abuse is never tolerated, minimised, or dismissed as “banter” or “part of growing up.” Our purpose is to protect all learners, support those affected, and ensure a safe, respectful community across both online and in-person settings.

This policy outlines The Haven’s approach to prevention, identification, response, and monitoring of child-on-child abuse in line with statutory guidance.

### Scope

This policy applies to:

- All The Haven staff, governors, contractors, and volunteers.
- All learners engaging with The Haven, whether online, hybrid, or through physical settings.
- All contexts in which The Haven learners may interact, including digital platforms, social media, in-person sessions, and third-party venues.

This policy should be read alongside The Haven’s:

- **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy v01.26**
- **Behaviour and Regulation Policy v10.25**

- **Attendance & Engagement v01.26**
- **Prevent Duty Policy v01.26\_**
- **Staff Conduct Policy v10.25**

## Statutory Guidance

This policy has due regard to:

- *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026.*
- *DfE Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people.*  
The Haven uses the term *nudes and semi-nudes*, which includes images that have been digitally altered or wholly generated using AI. A young person who tells us an image of them has been shared will be supported, not blamed.
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023.*
- *Sexual Offences Act 2003.*
- *Children Acts 1989 and 2004.*
- *Equality Act 2010.*
- Independent School Standards (Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, as amended) — adopted as a voluntary benchmark; The Haven is not a DfE-registered independent school and these Standards do not apply to it as a matter of law.
- Online Safety Act 2023 (in force in stages 2024–2025; user-to-user service duties on content harmful to children).

## Definitions

**Child-on-child abuse:** Any form of physical, sexual, emotional, or financial abuse, coercive control, exploitation, or bullying committed by one child against another. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).
- Physical abuse (e.g., hitting, kicking, shaking, biting).
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Harmful sexual behaviours (HSB).
- Upskirting (as defined in the Voyeurism Offences Act 2019).
- Initiation/hazing-type violence and rituals.
- Emotional abuse, coercion, or online harassment.

## Aims

- To prevent child-on-child abuse through education, awareness, and culture.
- To ensure staff are confident in recognising and responding to signs of child-on-child abuse.
- To provide safe reporting routes for learners, both online and in person.
- To support victims and address harmful behaviour proportionally and restoratively.

- To work with parents/carers, safeguarding partners, and external agencies where required.

## Objectives

### • Prevention

- Embed safeguarding and respectful relationships teaching across the curriculum.
- Promote inclusion, empathy, and digital citizenship.
- Encourage learners to speak up, knowing disclosures will be taken seriously.

### • Recognition

- Train staff to identify indicators, including changes in online behaviour, language, or engagement.
- Ensure staff are alert to hidden forms of abuse such as coercion in digital spaces.

### • Response

- Any disclosure or concern is treated as a safeguarding matter.
- DSL assesses risk, ensures immediate safety, and records incidents.
- Responses will balance support for the victim, accountability for the perpetrator, and restorative opportunities where safe.
- Serious incidents (e.g., sexual violence) will be referred to statutory agencies.

### • Support

- Victims will be listened to, believed, and supported with tailored interventions.
- Perpetrators will also receive support to address underlying issues, recognising behaviour as communication.

### • Partnership

- Parents/carers will be engaged, unless doing so would place a child at further risk.
- The Haven will liaise with children's social care, the police, or other external partners as appropriate.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- **Governing Board:** Ensure policy oversight, monitor compliance, and support safe culture.
- **Principal/Proprietor:** Ensure resources and systems are in place to implement this policy.
- **DSL:** Lead on child-on-child abuse concerns, coordinate responses, ensure training, and maintain records.
- **All Staff and Volunteers:** Remain vigilant, follow procedures, and embed preventative culture in daily practice.
- **Learners:** Encouraged to uphold a culture of respect, report concerns, and support peers.

## Monitoring and Review

- **Termly DSL-led checks:** Review reported cases, ensure proportional responses, and spot patterns.
- **Annual review:** Carried out by DSL and Governing Board, ensuring consistency with KCSIE updates and statutory requirements.

- **Immediate interim review:** Triggered by significant safeguarding incidents or legislative changes. \*\*  
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*This PDF was generated from the published policy at [policies.thehavenonline.school](https://policies.thehavenonline.school) on 26 August 2026. The website is the authoritative, most current version of this policy.*