

# Flip The Script YOUTH CIC

## PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE POLICY

<b>Document:</b>	PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE POLICY
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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Flip The Script Youth CIC recognises that children and young people can abuse their peers. Peer-on-peer abuse can take many forms and can be emotionally, physically, or sexually harmful. We take all instances seriously and respond appropriately.

### 2. TYPES OF PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE

Includes but is not limited to:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying)
- Physical abuse (hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, etc.)
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude/semi-nude images
- Upskirting
- Initiation/hazing violence
- Prejudice-based abuse (racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, etc.)
- Abuse in intimate relationships between peers

### 3. RECOGNISING PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE

Warning signs may include:

- Reluctance to attend sessions or sudden changes in attendance
- Physical injuries



- Changes in behaviour or mood
- Self-harm or risk-taking behaviour
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour or language
- Reports from other young people
- Withdrawal or isolation

## 4. RESPONDING TO CONCERNS

When peer-on-peer abuse is suspected or disclosed:

- Take it seriously – never dismiss it as 'banter' or 'just growing up'
- Follow safeguarding procedures immediately
- Report to the DSL
- Support the victim – ensure they feel heard and safe
- Separate those involved if necessary
- Do not investigate but gather basic facts

## 5. INVESTIGATING CONCERNS

The DSL will:

- Assess the level of risk to all young people involved
- Consider whether referral to children's social care is needed
- Consider whether police involvement is required
- Conduct or commission an appropriate investigation
- Record all information and actions

## 6. SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

Victims of peer-on-peer abuse will receive:

- Immediate support and reassurance
- Ongoing support tailored to their needs
- Regular check-ins



- Referral to specialist services if needed
- Involvement in decisions about their support (age-appropriate)

## 7. SUPPORT FOR ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

Young people who have harmed others also need support:

- Understand the behaviour and reasons behind it
- Address underlying needs or trauma
- Provide education about healthy relationships
- Set clear expectations and boundaries
- Monitor and support behavioural change

This does not mean minimising their actions but recognising that harmful behaviour may indicate they too are vulnerable.

## 8. CONSEQUENCES AND SANCTIONS

Responses will be proportionate and consider:

- The nature and severity of the behaviour
- The ages and developmental stages involved
- Any special educational needs or disabilities
- The context and circumstances

Possible responses include:

- Restorative approaches
- Therapeutic interventions
- Temporary suspension from activities
- Permanent exclusion in serious cases
- Police involvement where a crime may have been committed



## 9. PREVENTION

We will prevent peer-on-peer abuse by:

- Creating a culture of respect and equality
- Providing education about healthy relationships
- Teaching young people about consent
- Addressing harmful attitudes and behaviours early
- Maintaining strong supervision and monitoring
- Empowering young people to speak up

