

Flip The Script YOUTH CIC

PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE POLICY

Document:	PEER-ON-PEER ABUSE POLICY
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Date:	January 2026

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

