



Shropshire
Gateway
Educational Trust



LACON
CHILDE
SCHOOL

...more than just a school

Sexual Harassment and Abuse Statement

Review Date: September 2024

Lacon Childe School

Statement on sexual abuse in schools – Child on Child Abuse

At Lacon Childe School we are aware of the recent Ofsted's review of sexual abuse in schools (June 2021). We have taken note that in this report it states that young people experience a prevalence of sexual harassment, inappropriate e-communication and other related behaviours. For example, the review stated that 90% of secondary aged girls reported unwanted sexualised e-communication.

Ofsted also referred to other evidence that suggested 15% of concerns disclosed to a self-report website, were from primary aged pupils. Schools must therefore assume that sexual harassment, online sexual abuse and sexual violence is likely to be happening across all areas of the UK and therefore also in their school communities. Even though schools may have no specific reports or concerns at present, we have decided to put in place a whole-school approach to address it.

At Lacon Childe School we will ensure that: -

- Where incidents are reported, we will handle them, in line with the DfE's guidance.
- Our staff are trained accordingly (including teachers delivering relationships, sex and health education)
- Our staff have good awareness of the signs that a child is being neglected or abused and that they are confident about what to do if a child reports that they have been sexually abused by another child
- Our staff will ensure that children are taught about safeguarding risks, including online risks and they support pupils to understand what constitutes a healthy relationship, both online and offline.
- At Lacon Childe School we have a carefully sequenced RSE curriculum, based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance, that specifically includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online.
- We have a carefully selected group of specialist and confident teachers to delivery RSE.
- We also make sure that our staff and governors are trained generally in this area.
- At Lacon Childe School, careful records are kept. Where necessary, analysis of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online is undertaken to identify patterns and intervene early to prevent abuse.

We take a behavioural approach, including sanctions when appropriate, to reinforce a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated.

At Lacon Childe School our designated staff work in careful partnership with other professionals, as is reflected in our Safeguarding Policies.

At Lacon Childe School we have a fully trained safeguarding staff:

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mrs K. Guise – Assistant Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Ms P. Shepherd

Trained Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mr K. Wood

Mrs C. Marsden-Smedley

Mr J Treble

Mrs K Rentell

- These members of the pastoral team are given time and support to fully discharge their duties in this important area.

- In our work with pupils, our schools ensure that pupils are clear about the next steps, when an incident is reported and that they create a clear action plan with activities, responsibilities and timescale.

Refer also to related Policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- RSE Policy