Five Spires Academy safeguarding and child protection policy

Annex 6 – updates to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026

The final version of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 was published on 1st September 2026, with further revisions from the draft that was shared in July 2026. This annex is written to be held alongside the main policy, and incorporates the most recent changes.

Types of abuse

An updated summary of the definition of abuse (emphasis indicates change in terminology from main policy):

- Sexual: involves forcing, *causing* or inciting a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, such as acts of penetration, whether that is with part of a person's body or an object (e.g. rape or assault by penetration), and non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching over clothing. Sexual abuse may also include noncontact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online as well as offline, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. Children can be sexually abused within the family, an institution or a community setting, *and are more likely to know their abuser than not.* The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education and all staff should be aware of it and of their school or college's policy and procedures for dealing with it. *There are specific offences for children under 13, who can never provide valid consent to sexual activity and there are specific offences which make clear that sexual activity with a child under 16 is an offence, regardless of whether they agreed to that activity.*

Child on child abuse (including harassment and violence)

- We recognise that any prejudice-based harm, including prejudice based on race, faith or other characteristics, can affect a child's physical and mental health and wellbeing, their sense of safety, and impact on their ability to ask for help from an adult. Staff will be alert to any reports of prejudice-based harm, and any incidents will be responded to in line with the safeguarding and behaviour policies.
- Our academy promotes an inclusive, anti-discriminatory culture. Any form of discriminatory behaviour will not be tolerated.

Early Years (not applicable to junior schools)

- In line with our safer recruitment policy, any volunteers working in Early Years will not be allowed to commence their role until full safer recruitment checks, including enhanced DBS certificate with barred list information, have been completed and verified.