

Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to provide our stance on bullying and how incidents will be handled.

Scope

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of or with Science Boost CIC in any capacity.

Peer on peer abuse and bullying

Science Boost staff are aware safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse.

Bullying may be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to protect themselves. It can take many forms but the main types are: Physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), Verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name-calling), Emotional (e.g. isolating an individual from the activities and social acceptance of their peer group) and Cyberbullying (e.g. via social media or mobile phones, including sexting)

Staff should be vigilant to and must challenge any form of derogatory and sexualised language or behaviour. Behaviours by children should never be passed off as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'. The DFE states "*peer on peer abuse should be taken as seriously as abuse by adults and should be subject to the same child protection procedures. Professionals should not dismiss abusive behaviour as normal between young people and should not develop high thresholds before taking action.*"

Bullying



Reporting bullying

Concerns should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Concerns will be handled in line with our Safeguarding procedures. Victims of peer on peer harm will be supported by Science Boost and referred to specialist agencies if appropriate.