

The A word

March 2023



What's the A word?

Ambition?

Articulacy?

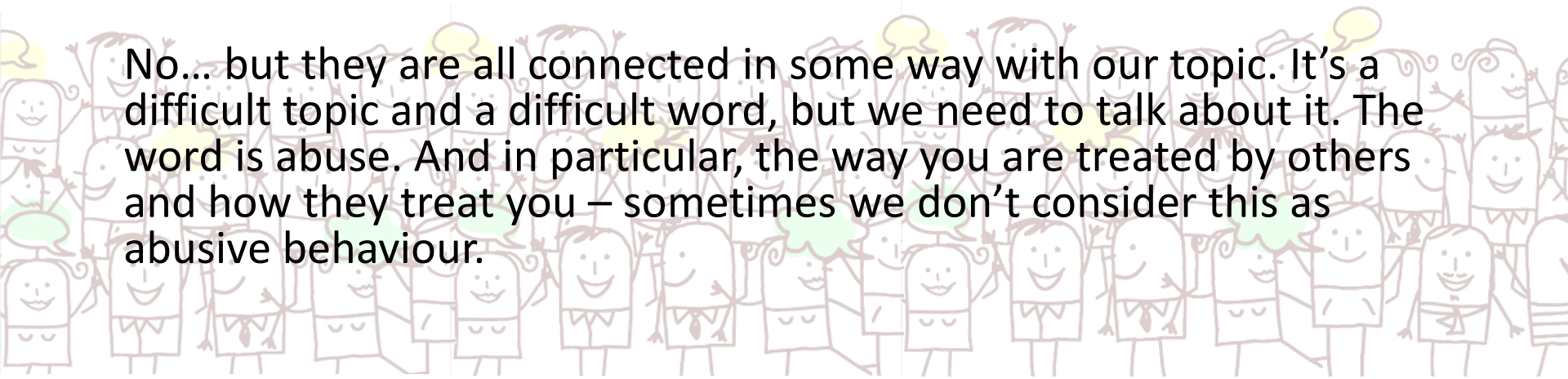
Attitude?

Awareness?

Apathy?

Anxiety?

No... but they are all connected in some way with our topic. It's a difficult topic and a difficult word, but we need to talk about it. The word is abuse. And in particular, the way you are treated by others and how they treat you – sometimes we don't consider this as abusive behaviour.



What is child-on-child/ peer-on-peer abuse?

Child-on-child abuse is when one child or young person causes harm to another. It can look like a lot of different things. These are some of them:



Bullying and cyberbullying

This is behaviour that is purposeful and repeated, and that is meant to hurt someone or make them feel sad or angry.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse could be hitting, kicking, pushing, etc. and are things that harm another person's body, maybe causing serious injury.

Sharing naked or almost naked pictures of someone

It is illegal to share naked images of someone under the age of 18 even with permission. Sharing images like this is abuse.

Forcing someone to do something sexual

This might include forcing someone to take a naked picture of themselves and send it to someone else. It could also include sexual acts that someone isn't comfortable with.

Forcing someone to do something dangerous or illegal

Someone might ask a peer to hurt someone else or themselves, or commit a crime like theft to prove that they can join a friend group or gang.

Sharing inappropriate images or videos

Sending someone violent or pornographic images or videos or other things they don't want to see is a form of abuse as it can be distressing for a lot of young people.

Harmful behaviour in a relationship or friendship

This could be between partners or close friends. The behaviour might make someone feel upset, unsafe or uncomfortable.

Sexual violence/harassment

This include sharing/taking sexual images, using sexual language, making gestures or touching inappropriately, or forcing someone into sexual situations.



PEER PRESSURE

ANXIETY

ATTITUDE

PERFORMANCE

MENTAL STRESS

BEHAVIOUR

DEPRESSION

EMOTIONAL
BREAKDOWN

LOW
SELF-ESTEEM



BULLYING

VERBAL

PHYSICAL

PSYCHOLOGICAL

CYBER

APPEARANCE

RACE OR
RELIGION

BEHAVIOR

SOCIAL STATUS

Watch this clip from “Educating Manchester”. A year 7 girl, with the help of a member of staff, confronted her bullies and helped them see the impact of their abusive behaviour.



Stamp out abusive behaviours at our school

1. It's not OK to make sexist (or other intolerant) comments

Our school behaviour policy says:

Students will not verbally ... abuse another member of the school community based on a protected characteristic, including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation

This means:

We want everyone to feel included, respected and safe in our school. We will not tolerate verbal abuse, which includes name-calling and sexist comments.

Sexist comments are those which discriminate based on sex, particularly against women.

Sexism also includes behaviour or attitudes that create stereotypes of social roles based on sex.

All staff and students are encouraged to call out and/or report this behaviour. If students make these comments, we will:

- Ask them to apologise to anyone the comment was directed at
- Support and educate them to improve their behaviour
- Monitor their behaviour for any recurrence
- Escalate the sanction if the student refuses to apologise in the first instance.

Stamp out abusive behaviours at our school

2. It's never OK sexually harass a member of our community

Our school behaviour policy says:

Students will not bully, harass or otherwise victimise a member of the community, whether verbally, physically or online.

This means:

All members of our school community have a right be free from sexual harassment or victimisation.

Examples of sexual harassment are sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse.

Staff and students should immediately call out this behaviour and report it. In response to this behaviour we will:

- ask the student(s) to apologise to the victim
- Support and educate them to improve their behaviour
- Log the behaviour on CPOMS and inform parents / carers
- Monitor their behaviour for any recurrence
- Further sanctions may be given and these will be proportionate, considered, supportive and decided on a case-by-case basis

Sanctions may be, proportionate to the incident:

- A verbal warning
- A letter or phone call to parents
- Detention
- Community service
- A period of internal exclusion (length dependent on incident)
- Fixed-term (length dependent on incident) or permanent exclusion.

Stamp out abusive behaviours at our school

3. Denefield students **MUST NEVER** abuse another student

Our school behaviour policy says:

Students will not pose a threat to any other members of the school community or take any action that may lead to another student, member of staff or passer-by being put at risk of harm;

-Act in a dangerous manner or put their or other people's safety in jeopardy;

-- Pose a threat to any other members of the school community

- Verbally or physically abuse another member of the community

This means:

Child on child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse);
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)

When incidents of this type are reported or discovered, we will, as necessary:

- Support and educate them to improve their behaviour
- Log the behaviour on CPOMS and inform parents / carers
- Monitor their behaviour for any recurrence
- If a crime has taken place, we will inform the police or advise the victim to inform the police
- Further sanctions may be given and these will be proportionate, considered, supportive and decided on a case-by-case basis

Stamp out abusive behaviours at our school

4. It is not OK to be involved in sexting or upskirting

Our school behaviour policy says:

Students will not pose a threat to any other members of the school community or take any action that may lead to another student, member of staff or passer-by being put at risk of harm; engage in sexual behaviour or sexual assault, including upskirting, and that could cause humiliation, pain, fear or intimidation

This means:

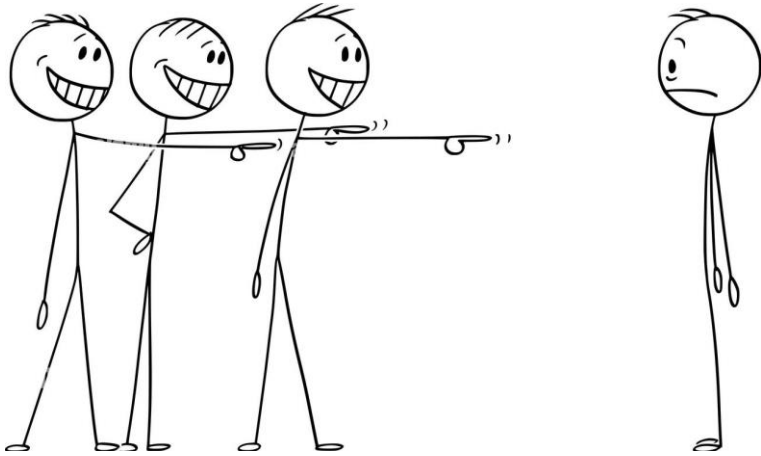
Sexting is defined as consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and or videos (also known as youth produced sexual imagery).

Upskirting typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.

Our response to incidents of this nature are the same as for other forms of child on child abuse, and in addition:

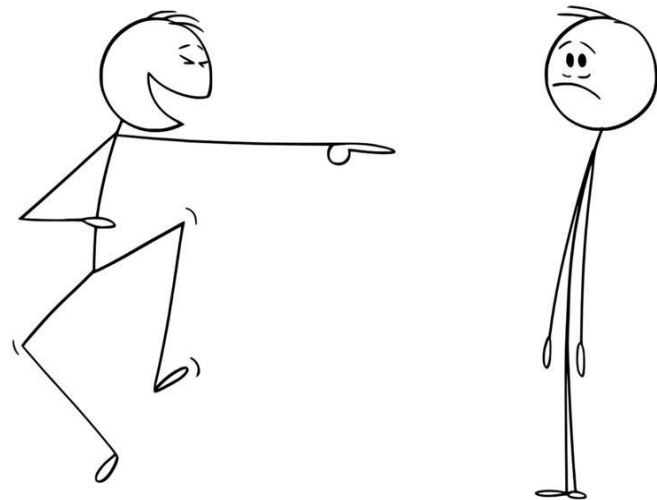
- Confiscate the student's phone for collection by a parent / carer
- Supervise the student(s) while they delete the image(s) from their phone, unless requested for evidence

What are your responsibilities?



- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Never spread rumours about other people – it's unfair, often untrue and can cause real harm that you never intended

- Never call others names or be judgemental, even if you think you know what happened. It's not your business and it makes it worse for everyone involved
- When this behaviour is reported it will be addressed by staff.

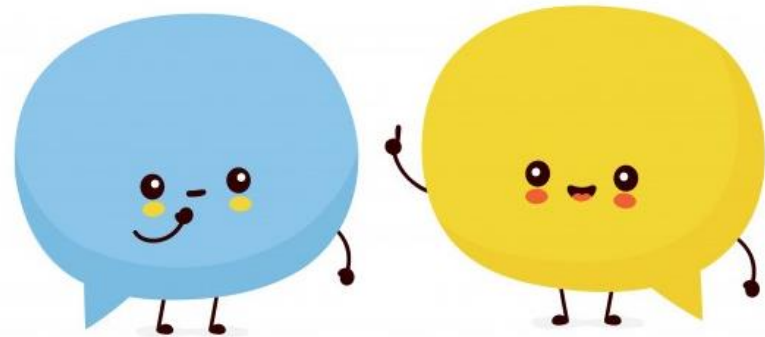




Where to find help and support

If you are worried about yourself or someone else, or if want to report something that doesn't feel right or safe, there is always help for you. You can:

- talk to your tutor or a teacher
- talk to your welfare manager
- talk to your parent or carer – they can contact school on your behalf
- email listening@denefield.org.uk
- call Childline 0800 1111



Our designated safeguarding leads are:



Mrs Williams



Mrs Holley



Mr Towill

before you speak

THINK

T *is it Truthful*

H *is it Helpful*

I *is it Inspiring*

N *IS IT NECESSARY*

K *is it Kind*

