# Finch Nest Preschool

## Child on Child Abuse Policy

**Date: August 2026**

**Review: August 2027**

**Policy Intention**

Finch Nest Preschool are committed to providing an environment for children that is safe, welcoming and free from abuse. Although unlikely, we recognise that abuse does happen from child to child. We recognise that children who are perpetrators of abuse have often been the victims of abuse themselves and in all situations of child-on-child abuse, both parties must be offered necessary support.

**Definitions**

Child-on child abuse is behaviour by an individual peer or group of peers, intending to physically, sexually or emotionally hurt others.

Child on child abuse can include: bullying (including online bullying), physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm, sexual violence and sexual harassment. We recognise that legitimate play behaviour may at times include these facets, but when one or more parties becomes targeted on a recurrent basis the experience of those affected can be extremely negative.

In the rare cases where behaviour is defined as abuse and despite all efforts to prevent it, we will respond to all incidents thoroughly and sensitively.

**Procedure**

- Staff will inform the DSL or Preschool Manager if they witness an incident of abuse or bullying and email their concerns to safeguarding@finchnestpreschool.co.uk
- If a child or preschool assistant tells someone they are being bullied, they will be given the time to explain what has happened and reassured that they were right to tell.
- If a parent/carer makes an allegation of child-on-child abuse or bullying the DSL or preschool manager will be notified immediately.
- The DSL or preschool manager will speak to the key workers and parents of both children involved and to the children if appropriate.
- If it is decided that child-on-child abuse or bullying has occurred then the perpetrator will be encouraged to discuss their behaviour and think through the consequences of their actions. Where appropriate, they will be encouraged to talk through the incident with the other person/people involved.
- Any incidents between the two children/groups of children will be monitored and recorded
- All children involved in any child-on-child abuse or bullying incident will be offered support. The manager may contact:-
    - Local Advice Safeguarding Sevenoaks (03000 423 149)
    - The Front Door social.services@kent.gov.uk (tel: 03000 41 11 11)
    - kccchildrens.kent.gov.uk/web /portal/pages/home
- Where abusive or bullying behaviour persists, the perpetrator's parents will receive a written warning and in the extremely unlikely instance that it continues further, the perpetrator's parents will receive a final written warning that suspension or exclusion will occur from the preschool if the behaviour does not stop.