

Contextual safeguarding

Whilst specifically mentioned in relation to peer on peer abuse, we can utilise the concept of contextual safeguarding in relation to all the children and young people in the school. This prompt sheet encourages you to think about the cohorts that you have within school and what may be influencing them.

These questions can be used by the DSL, Senior Leadership Team and Safeguarding Governor to assess where your school is at, and determine next steps.

- What is the demographic of the area the school serves? (i.e. is it predominantly one ethnic grouping, or is it a multi-cultural community? What are the levels of deprivation which are present?)
- What do the teachers / year heads / support staff for each year group see as the particular issues within that group?
- Are there any issues being reported by staff who are monitoring the pupils during breaks and can these be linked to particular year groups?
- When reviewing the concern logs in relation to each year group, what are the key themes that are coming out?
- Are you aware of specific issues such as gang influence or domestic abuse?
- What is the impact of technology within each year group?
- Do your staff know what the top five apps are that the children / young people they work with are using?
- Do any of the year groups have specific children who are isolated from the others for any reason?

Once you have this information, how do you use it to support children / young people?

- Does a particular issue need a whole school approach (e.g. tackling gang culture, promotion of British values)?
- Does there need to a specific approach for a whole year group?
- How will you evaluate the effectiveness of your approach?
- How can governors be assured that identified issues are addressed?
- What will the review cycle be?

