



Guide to Safeguarding Hexham First School

What should I do if I have a concern about a child?	You should speak to one of our designated safeguarding leads in school, Justine Overton and Elizabeth Barton. Our safeguarding governor is Fiona Armstrong. All concerns are recorded on digitally CPOMs (child protection online management system)
What safeguarding training do school staff and governors receive?	All school staff receive annual safeguarding training - KCSIE 2025 Governors have all read KCSIE 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional safeguarding updates shared on safeguarding notice boards in staffroom and in weekly staff meetings.• Regular safeguarding updates shared with parents on Class Dojo• The school website provides comprehensive safeguarding information including a link to the school policy• The Single Central Record is maintained by the office staff and is checked each half term by the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors.• There is a Whistleblowing Policy of which staff read annually.• A staff code of conduct includes safeguarding expectations
What is physical abuse?	Physical abuse is when someone hurts or harms a child or young person on purpose. It includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• hitting with hands or objects• slapping and punching• kicking• shaking• throwing• poisoning• burning and scalding• biting and scratching• breaking bones• drowning. It's important to remember that physical abuse is any way of intentionally causing physical harm to a child or young person. It also includes making up the symptoms of an illness or causing a child to become unwell.
What is Emotional Abuse?	Emotional abuse is any type of abuse that involves the continual emotional mistreatment of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare, humiliate, isolate, or ignore a child. Emotional abuse is often a part of other kinds of abuse. Evidence shows that emotional abuse can be the most damaging and is often the hardest to prove.
What is Domestic Abuse?	Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. When it happens between adults, it can seriously harm children and young people psychologically; because of this, witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse. It's important to remember domestic abuse:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can happen inside and outside the home • can happen over the phone, on the internet and on social networking sites • can happen in any relationship and can continue even after the relationship has ended • both men and women can be abused or abusers. <p>Domestic abuse can involve emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological abuse. Domestic abuse can also include rape within a relationship (as everybody has the legal right to refuse consent, even those in a relationship with someone else). Children can also be subject to domestic abuse.</p>
What is neglect?	<p>Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse. A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision, or health care. This can put children and young people in danger; it can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>There are four main types of neglect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical neglect: a child's basic needs, such as food, clothing, or shelter, are not met or they aren't properly supervised or kept safe. • Educational neglect: a parent doesn't ensure their child is given an education. • Emotional neglect: a child doesn't get the nurture and stimulation they need. This could be through ignoring, humiliating, intimidating, or isolating them. • Medical neglect: a child isn't given proper health care. This includes dental care and refusing or ignoring medical recommendations.
What is Peer on Peer Abuse?	<p>Peer-on-peer abuse is when children and young people abuse other children and young people. This can include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical and sexual abuse • sexual harassment and violence • emotional harm • online and offline bullying • teenage relationship abuse <p>It can even include grooming children for sexual and criminal exploitation. When we talk about bullying in school, this is just one form of peer on- peer abuse. Sometimes, bullying is a way of normalising behaviours which lead to greater harm</p>
What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?	<p>Child sexual exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity either in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. A child may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity seems like it is wanted by both people involved.</p> <p>Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology. Frequently, children may not know that they're being coerced into behaviours which they are not mature enough to fully understand; they might even be tricked into believing the relationship is loving, given alcohol or drugs, or convinced by someone online that they should do things with their bodies which they shouldn't.</p>
What is Sexual Harassment?	<p>Sexual harassment is unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature. This can involve saying things to you about your body or appearance which make you feel uncomfortable, asking for you to touch them when you don't want to, or touching you without consent in places on your body that make you uncomfortable. It can happen to people of any gender by people of any gender. Sexual harassment is illegal under the Equality Act 2010; it is a form of unlawful discrimination.</p>

What is Sexual Violence and Sexual Harm?	Sexual violence is the general term we use to describe any kind of unwanted sexual act or activity, including rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and many others. However, any sexual activity that a person doesn't fully understand or want would constitute sexual harm – this includes any sexual activity where a person may not be able to fully consent. A child under the age of 13 cannot give consent.
What is sexting?	Sexting is when people share a sexual message and/or a naked or semi-naked image, video, or text message with another person. It's also known as nude image sharing. When children share images or videos of themselves, it becomes child pornography. Children and young people may choose to send a nude image of themselves, or they might be forced or coerced into sharing images by their peers or adults online. In either case, once the image is shared, they have no control over how other people might use it. If the image is shared around peer groups it may lead to bullying and isolation. Perpetrators of abuse may circulate a nude image more widely and use this to blackmail a child and/or groom them for further sexual abuse. It's a criminal offence to take or share explicit images or videos of a child - even if the person doing it is a child – and the act of sending the image to somebody else could result in you being charged with the distribution of child pornography, which can result in being put onto the sex offenders register and can limit what you're able to do for work in the future.
What is Mental Health?	Mental health is an individual's cognitive, behavioural, and emotional wellbeing. It's something we all have - including every child and young person. We use the term "mental health issues" to refer to mental health problems, conditions, and mental illnesses. These issues may or may not be medically diagnosed.
What is Online Safety?	The internet is part of our everyday lives; most of us have at least one internet-connected device with us at all times. This means that there are lots of opportunities for people who want to do us harm to have access to us, be it through social media apps or by direct contact. Online safety is knowing how to protect ourselves online, by not sharing information which may reveal who we are, where we live, or by sharing anything which might put us in harm's way. This also means knowing when we might make choices which can result in us losing privacy, such as giving access to our computers and devices by an unknown third party.
What is Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)?	Child criminal exploitation is a form of child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes. Exploiting a child into committing crimes is abusive. Children who are targeted can also be groomed, physically abused, emotionally abused, sexually exploited or trafficked. This can sometimes result in children being prosecuted themselves for the crimes they've committed whilst being exploited.
What is 'County Lines'?	County Lines is a form of exploitation which typically involves an inner-city criminal gang exploiting children and young people to travel to smaller locations to sell drugs. Usually, they will be given a mobile phone specifically for the purpose of keeping in touch with the exploiter and the buyer. Children can be brought into this form of exploitation having been groomed into participation in other, less serious crimes – themselves a form of child criminal exploitation – and they may also be coerced into taking part by other children who have already been groomed by the criminal.
What is Modern Slavery?	Modern slavery is the severe exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain. Modern slavery is all around us, but often just out of sight. People can become entrapped making our clothes, serving our food, picking our crops, working in factories, or working in houses as cooks, cleaners, or nannies. From the outside, it can look like a normal job. But people are being controlled – they can face violence or threats, be forced into inescapable debt, or have had their passport taken away and are being threatened with deportation. Many have fallen into this oppressive trap simply because they were trying to escape poverty or insecurity, improve their lives and support their families. Now, they can't leave.

What is Radicalisation and Extremism?	<p>Radicalisation is when a person is groomed, either online or in real life, by others who are seeking to draw them into extremist activity. Older children or young people might be radicalised over the internet or through the influence of their peers. They can be groomed by family members who hold harmful, extreme beliefs, and can be exposed to violent, anti-social, extremist imagery, speeches and writings which can lead to the development of a distorted worldview, especially where the child may be attracted to what those people have told them because it helps them to process a world or circumstances which they otherwise don't understand – and they often offer very simplistic explanations to very complicated world problems to gain followers. Because of social media, grooming can often be with huge numbers of children simultaneously, rather than individual targeting.</p> <p>Extremism can take many forms, such as religious extremism (which isn't limited to just one world religion) and right-wing extremism (which is a political belief at odds with who we are as a nation). The Government defines extremism as: "Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces."</p>
What is Prevent?	<p>Prevent is the Government's strategy to combat all forms of extremism. It involves working with lots of different people to try to ensure children are protected from extremist grooming.</p>
Why is attendance a safeguarding issue?	<p>All school age children need to be in school each day. If you are not in school, and home believe you should be, you become vulnerable and at risk. When you're not in school, possibly truanting, those people who may wish to do you harm are more likely to approach you. School is the safest place for young people to be each day.</p>

SPECIFIC GUIDANCE RELATING TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Our PSHE /RSE scheme incorporates the new RSE curriculum. All staff at school have had some harmful sexual behaviour CPD in September (based on **Sexual violence** (sexual assault - touching without consent, any sexual contact with 0 to 12 yr old (even with consent as anyone under 13 can't give consent), inciting a child to engage in sexual activity and **sexual harassment** (discrimination - violating dignity, intimidating, offensive etc. calling sexualised names, jokes, pictures, drawings, sharing images, upskirting, sexualised bullying) between children in schools and colleges September 21 guidance). I've completed the National College course - a good one to do Bernie or anyone else if you have time) SEND children 3 times more likely to be abused

How we deal with harmful sexual behaviour at Hexham First School

- Knowing that it could happen at Hexham First School (and online between children)
- All school staff and governors having a clear understanding of what sexual harassment and sexual harm is
- Never accepted here at Hexham- **challenging** behaviour e.g: touching bottoms, pulling down trousers, lifting up skirts - zero tolerance approach, **NEVER PAST OFF AS BANTER OR BOYS BEING BOYS OR HAVING A LAUGH**, **challenging everyday sexual stereotypes**
- Staff knowing the signs (a child who abuses another child is likely to be abused themselves), behaviour, injury, reluctance to get changed
- Positive and trusting relationships between adults and children in school - staff know what to do if a child makes a disclosure or they have a concern (see below)

- Embedded into the PSHE / RSE curriculum - e.g: consent and healthy online and offline relationships
- Also in computing curriculum - e safety
- Key concepts such as 'consent' addressed in school assemblies and by all staff when appropriate
- Regular communication with parents - from an e-safety perspective e.g: sharing Parent Zone newsletter.
- Clear reporting systems in place

IF A CHILD REPORTS A CONCERN

- Listening carefully to the child, reflecting back, using the child's language, being non-judgmental, being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed, not asking leading questions and only prompting the child where necessary with open questions – where, when, what, etc. It is important to note that whilst leading questions should be avoided, staff can ask children if they have been harmed and what the nature of that harm was;
- Not promising confidentiality at this initial stage as it is very likely a concern will have to be shared with Justine Overton or Li Barton. Informing the designated safeguarding leads as soon as practically possible. Further (for example, with the designated safeguarding lead or children's social care) to discuss next steps.
- Report and immediately write up a thorough summary. This allows the staff member to devote their full attention to the child and to listen to what they are saying. It may be appropriate to make notes during the report (especially if a second member of staff is present). However, if making notes, staff should be conscious of the need to remain engaged with the child and not appear distracted by the note taking. Either way, **it is essential a written record is made**; Staff should only share the report with those people who are necessary in order to progress it. It is important that the victim understands what the next steps will be and who the report will be passed to
- Immediate risk assessment undertaken by Justine / Liz - they will consider - The victim, especially their protection and support; Whether there may have been other victims, The alleged perpetrator(s); and All the other children, at school, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them from the alleged perpetrator(s), or from future harms.
- The designated safeguarding leads should will contact children's social care and specialist services as required. Where there has been a report of sexual violence, it is likely that professional risk assessments by social workers and or sexual violence specialists will be required.