

Annex C

Definitions of Abuse

The School recognises the following as definitions of abuse:

Abuse may fall into a number of categories eg **physical, emotional, neglect and sexual**. Someone may abuse or neglect a child or young person by inflicting harm, by failing to act to prevent harm or by failing to ensure safety and adequate care. Harm may occur intentionally or unintentionally. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. **Examples** of abuse are outlined below. These examples are by no means exhaustive.

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/487799/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_draft_statutory_guidance.pdf

Types of abuse and neglect.

All school and college staff should be aware abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another.

Abuse: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Forced Marriage: The difference between an arranged and a forced marriage

The tradition of arranged marriages has operated very successfully within many communities and many countries for a very long time. A clear distinction must be made between a forced marriage and an arranged marriage. In **arranged marriages**, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice whether to accept the arrangement remains with the individuals. In **forced marriage**, at least one party does **not consent** to the marriage and some element of duress is involved. Forced marriage is primarily an issue of violence against women. Most cases involve young women and girls aged between 13 and 30 years, although there is evidence to suggest that some victims are male. Forced marriage is a criminal offence; the offences can include abduction, physical violence and threatening behaviour. Sexual intercourse without consent is rape.

If you suspect that one of your students is being forced into a marriage against their will or if a female ethnic minority student leaves School unexpectedly and without explanation, contact the Designated Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): FGM is a collective term for procedures which include the removal of part / all of external female genitalia for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. This practice is illegal in this country by the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 except on specific physical and mental health grounds. Any suspicion of intended or actual FGM must be referred to Children's Social Care.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Sexual exploitation of children is child sexual abuse and often also involves physical and emotional abuse. A child involved in commercial sexual exploitation of any kind should be treated as the victim of abuse. Sexual abuse involves the exploitation of both girls and boys under the age of 18. Children do not make 'informed' choices to enter or remain in sexual exploitation but may do so from coercion, enticement, manipulation or desperation.