

Child-On-Child Abuse



Children do abuse other children in and out of school or college, at home, in playgrounds, on public transport, in person and online, within intimate and non-intimate relationships. All school staff need to maintain an 'it could happen here' attitude. Abuse should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up". All child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and needs to be taken seriously (1)

This abuse used to be referred to as 'peer-on-peer' abuse but was renamed 'child-on-child' abuse in KCSIE 2023 (2). This abuse can take a variety of forms and happens between children of all ages, is perpetrated by and to, individuals or groups, and takes place online and offline.

1. KCSIE 2022 Annex B paragraph 35

2. "Updated to reflect child-on-child abuse (rather than peer-on-peer-abuse). This is for consistency of terms as we merge the Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges advice into KCSIE. P. 175 KCSIE

Bullying



What is bullying?

Bullying is defined by the Anti-Bullying Alliance as “the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online”(3).

The next slide will give examples of the signs to look out for when a child is being bullied.

³ <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/understanding-bullying/definition>

The signs of bullying are:

- belongings getting 'lost' or damaged
- physical injuries, such as unexplained bruises
- being afraid to go to school, being mysteriously 'ill' each morning, or skipping school
- not doing as well at school
- asking for, or stealing, money (to give to whoever's bullying them)
- being nervous, losing confidence, or becoming distressed and withdrawn
- problems with eating or sleeping
- bullying others (4)

These are also signs for child-on-child physical abuse which was covered in Module 2

4 <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/#signs>



Intimate personal relationship or teenage relationship abuse



What is Intimate personal relationship or teenage relationship abuse?

Abuse in teenage relationships is defined by the children's society as 'when you begin to feel scared or controlled by the person you're with. You may be confused because it feels like a loving relationship but often only when you behave in a certain way. This can happen at any age, regardless of gender (5)

An abusive relationship is defined by the children's society as "If your boyfriend or girlfriend is being physically or emotionally abusive in any way, including over the phone, messaging or using social media, this is relationship abuse. They may be putting pressure on you to go and see them or do things online that you are not comfortable with"(5)

The next slide will give examples of the signs to look out for when a child is in an abusive intimate personal relationship or experiencing teenage relationship abuse.

The signs of intimate personal relationship or teenage relationship abuse are:

- isolation – no longer spending time with a usual circle of friends.
- constantly checking a mobile phone, and getting upset when asked to turn it off
- being withdrawn or quieter than usual.
- being angry or irritable when asked how things are
- changing their appearance, clothes, make up or style
- making excuses for a boyfriend or girlfriend
- physical signs of injury, such as unexplained scratches or bruises.
- truancy, falling grades
- self-harm (6)

Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment and Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB)

What is sexual violence, sexual harassment and HSB?

Like the other forms of child-on-child abuse, sexual violence, sexual harassment and harmful sexual behaviours (HSB) can happen at any age from primary through to college, with individuals or groups, online and offline. The NSPCC's Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges conducted in 2021 found that girls in particular face HSB in schools and colleges 'sometimes' or 'a lot'. Children with SEND are 3 times more likely to be abused than their peers.

In schools and colleges "among the most commonly reported behaviours were: sexist name-calling and comments; and being sent or coerced into sharing sexual images" (9). The abuse is under-reported to school staff and pupils feel that staff are out of touch with the realities of school life. While sexual harassment does take place during school time and in schools and colleges, sexual violence and other forms of harmful sexual behaviour happen outside school (in particular at unsupervised house parties and on school bus journeys) but do impact on behaviours in school; in particular viewing online forms of abuse can normalise harmful sexual behaviours in school.

9. <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/2604/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges.pdf>

Sexual violence



Sexual violence is an act defined by the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This includes the offence of rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault (intentional sexual touching without consent), and causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent. Consent is defined as:

“having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another” and “a child under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity”, “the age of consent is 16”, “sexual intercourse without consent is rape” (10)