

Initiation or hazing violence



What is initiation or hazing violence?

Initiation ceremonies and hazing refers to the practice of rituals and challenges which “could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element (7)

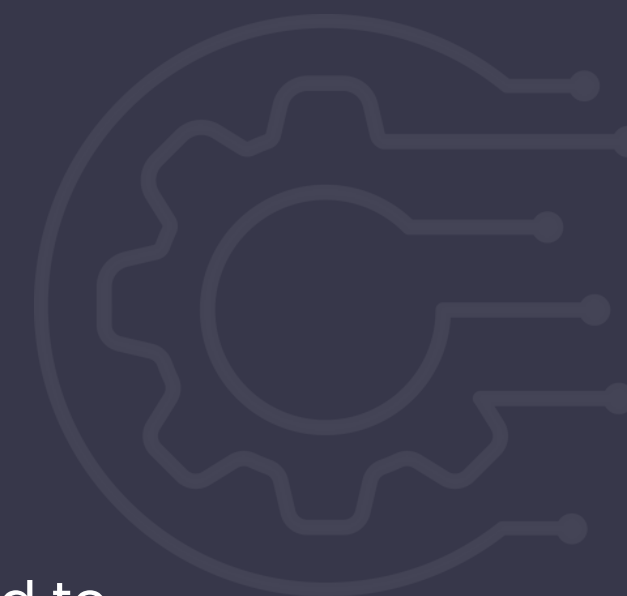
Children may be coerced into taking part in activities ranging from the seemingly benign to the criminal. Activities are designed to exploit power imbalances within groups and can be one-off events or a continuing pattern of abuse. They can involve psychological, physical, sexual, and verbal abuse, sleep or food deprivation, relationship control, humiliation and nudity, and performing tasks for group leaders.

^{7.}
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1181962/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2023_-_part_one.pdf pg11.

The signs of initiation and hazing violence:

- Changes in behaviour and communication that may correspond with the timing of a person becoming involved with an organization
- Disrupted patterns of behaviour: Not attending classes, change in grades, becoming difficult to reach or other changes in patterns of communication, not coming home as/when expected, not eating meals as usual, change in personal hygiene, only associating with certain people.
- Describes activities that would meet the definition of hazing, but refers to them as "traditions" or "initiations"
- Chronic fatigue
- Symptoms of depression
- Friends, school staff, parents, or siblings express concerns about change in behaviour
- Unusual photos posted on social media (8)

Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB)



Children's sexual behaviour exists on a wide continuum, from normal and developmentally expected to inappropriate, problematic, abusive and violent. Problematic, inappropriate, abusive and violent behaviour is developmentally inappropriate and may cause developmental damage.

A useful umbrella term is 'harmful sexual behaviour'.

The behaviour that can be considered problematic follows the patterns below. It:

- Occurs at a frequency greater than would be developmentally expected
- Interferes with a child's development
- Occurs with coercion, intimidation, or force
- Is associated with emotional distress
- Occurs between children of divergent ages or developmental abilities
- Repeatedly recurs in secrecy after intervention by caregivers

The organization **Stop It Now** lists the following signs for Harmful Sexual Behaviours:

- “Seeks out the company of younger children and spends an unusual amount of time in their company?”
- Takes younger children to ‘secret’ places or hideaways or plays ‘special’ games with them (e.g. doctor and patient, removing clothing etc.) especially games unusual for their age?
- Insists on hugging or kissing a child when the child does not want to?
- Tells you they do not want to be alone with a child or becomes anxious when a particular child or young person is coming to visit?
- Frequently uses aggressive sexual language about adults or children?
- Sends or shows sexual material to younger children?
- Makes sexually abusive telephone calls?
- Shares alcohol or other drugs with younger children or teens?
- Views child pornography on the internet or elsewhere?
- Exposes his or her genitals to younger children?
- Forces sex on another adolescent or child?” **12**

Child Abduction



“Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child (13)”

Children can be abducted by strangers, family, friends, neighbours or acquaintances.

Children may be taken out of the country or remain in the country; they may be taken from a place or may be retained in a place without the consent of their parent or legal guardian.

Some children will have extra safeguarding measures put in place when the risk of their abduction or retention is higher. Children with greater independence benefit from lessons in school about keeping safe when they are out and about.

Community safety incidents



Community safety incidents are unexpected events that affect the school community.

The release of hazardous substances in the vicinity of the school, flooding in the local area, people loitering at the school gates, an interruption of utilities supply, an aggressive intruder, a medical epidemic, a serious incident or a death involving a member of the community, all are examples of incidents which may require safeguarding action by the school staff.

Schools will have policies in place so they can respond appropriately to safeguard pupils and staff should an incident happen.