

# TYPES AND SIGNS OF ABUSE

## RECOGNISING CONCERNS, SIGNS & INDICATORS OF ABUSE

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. For St Joseph's it includes such things as student safety, bullying, racist abuse and harassment, educational visits, intimate care, children missing education and internet safety, etc. The witnessing of abuse can also have a damaging effect on those who are party to it, as well as the child subjected to the actual abuse, and will have a significant impact on the health and emotional well-being of the child. Abuse can take place in any family, institution, or community setting, by telephone or on the internet. Abuse can often be difficult to recognize as children may behave differently or seem unhappy for many reasons, as they move through the stages of childhood, or their family circumstances change. However, it is important to know the indicators of abuse and to be alert to the need to consult further.

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Government defines domestic abuse as *“Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality”*.






Staff need to understand what is required of them if children are members of the household where domestic abuse is known or suspected to be taking place. Our policy includes action to be taken regarding referrals to the Police and Children and Young People's Services and any action to be taken where a member of staff is the alleged perpetrator or victim of domestic abuse. At St Joseph's College, we will follow our safeguarding policy and report any suspected concerns regarding Domestic Abuse to the relevant agency.

## PHYSICAL ABUSE

This can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, punching, kicking, scalding, burning, drowning, and suffocating. It can also result when a parent or carer deliberately causes the ill health of a child to seek attention through fabricated or induced illness. This was previously known as Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy.

## EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional Abuse is where a child's need for love, security, recognition, and praise is not met. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of someone else such as in Domestic Violence or Domestic Abuse. A parent, carer or authority figure is considered emotionally abusive when they are consistently hostile, rejecting, threatening, or undermining toward a child or other family member. It can also occur when children are prevented from having social contact with others or if inappropriate expectations are placed upon them. Symptoms that indicate emotional abuse include:

-  Excessively clingy or attention seeking.
-  Very low self-esteem or excessive self-criticism.
-  Withdrawn behaviour or fearfulness.
-  Lack of appropriate boundaries with strangers; too eager to please.
-  Eating disorders or self-harm

## SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether the child is aware of what is happening. This may include physical contact both penetrative and non-penetrative or viewing pornographic material including using the internet. Indicators of sexual abuse include allegations or disclosures, genital soreness, injuries or disclosure, sexually transmitted diseases, inappropriate sexualized behaviour including words, play or drawing.

## NEGLECT






Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs that can significantly harm their health and development. Neglect can include inadequate supervision (being left alone for long periods of time), lack of stimulation, social contact or education, lack of appropriate food, shelter, appropriate clothing for conditions and medical attention and treatment when necessary.

## CHILD-ON-CHILD ABUSE

Child-on-child abuse is behaviour by an individual or group, intending to physically, sexually or emotionally harm others. It can happen to children of a similar age or

stage of development and can be harmful to the children who display it as well as those who experience it.

Child-on-child abuse can happen in a wide range of settings, including:

-  at school
-  at home
-  in someone else's home
-  in the community
-  online

It can take place in spaces which are supervised or unsupervised. Within a school context, for example, child-on-child abuse might take place in spaces such as toilets, the playground, corridors and when children are walking home (Contextual Safeguarding Network, 2020).

Remember if you have any concerns email: [SAFEGUARDING@SJC.AC](mailto:SAFEGUARDING@SJC.AC)