

# Safeguarding Newsletter

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)



## Alleyne's

A C A D E M Y  
NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA - 1558

The school has recently received some updated safeguarding training on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in light of government changes. The government has changed the statutory definition of child sexual exploitation after concluding the previous version was "unclear and out of date".

The Department for Education has updated its Working Together Child Safeguarding Guidance to reflect the changes, and issued a new guide for practitioners working with CSE.

The governors take the safeguarding of children in the school very seriously. This has been reflected in the recently updated Safeguarding Policy found on our school website ([www.alleynesacademy.co.uk](http://www.alleynesacademy.co.uk)).

### The new definition

*"Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It 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 (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.*

*The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology."*

### Like all forms of child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex;
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example);
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time,

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ACADEMY

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## Potential indicators of child sexual exploitation

Children rarely self-report child sexual exploitation so it is important that we remain aware of potential indicators of risk, including:

- acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones etc without plausible explanation;
- gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;
- exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;
- leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late;
- excessive receipt of texts/phone calls;
- frequenting areas known for sex work;
- concerning use of internet or other social media;
- increasing secretiveness around behaviours; and
- self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

Child sexual exploitation is a complex form of abuse and it can be difficult for those working with children to identify and assess. The indicators for child sexual exploitation can sometimes be mistaken for 'normal adolescent behaviours'. It requires knowledge, skills, professional curiosity and an assessment which analyses the risk factors and personal circumstances of individual children to ensure that the signs and symptoms are interpreted correctly and appropriate support is given.

**Child sexual exploitation is never the victim's fault, even if there is some form of exchange:** all children and young people under the age of 18 have a right to be safe and should be protected from harm.

If you have any concerns please do contact our Safeguarding Team.

**CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION** THE MORE YOU KNOW THE MORE YOU SEE

[WWW.CRIMESTOPPERS-UK.ORG](http://WWW.CRIMESTOPPERS-UK.ORG)