

Safeguarding

Recognition and types of abuse

All our staff are aware of the definitions and signs and symptoms of abuse. There are four categories of abuse:

Physical abuse - Sexual abuse - Emotional abuse - Neglect

Our staff understand that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the school and/or can occur between children outside of these environments.

All our staff, but especially our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and their deputies will consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.

The warning signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect can vary from child to child. Children also develop and mature at different rates, so what appears to be worrying behaviour for a younger child might be normal for an older child. Parental behaviours may also indicate child abuse or neglect, so staff are alert to parent-child interactions. By understanding the warning signs, we can respond to problems as early as possible and provide the right support and services for the child and their family. It is important to recognise that a warning sign doesn't automatically mean a child is being abused.