

What is Child-on-Child Abuse?

Everyone should be aware that children can abuse other children. Child-on-child abuse can happen both inside and outside of a setting (ie, school/home/other), face-to-face and online. Organisations working with children play an important role in preventing and responding to child-on-child abuse.

Child-on-Child Abuse Definition

Inappropriate behaviours between children that are abusive in nature including **physical**, **sexual**, or **emotional** abuse, **exploitation**, **sexual harassment**, all forms of **bullying**, coercive control, hazing/initiation rituals between children and young people, both on and offline (including that which is within intimate personal relationships).

Adapted from [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)



We should remember that child-on-child abuse is harmful to both the perpetrator and the victim. Children or young people who harm others may have additional or complex needs (e.g., significant disruption in their lives, exposure to domestic abuse, witnessing or suffering abuse, educational under-achievement, or being involved in crime).

Child-on-Child Abuse Online

Online child-on-child abuse is any form of child-on-child abuse with a digital element, for example:

- Sexting
- online abuse
- coercion and exploitation
- peer-on-peer grooming
- threatening language delivered via online means
- the distribution of sexualised content and harassment.



How will the school respond to Child-on-Child Abuse?

The safeguarding team (Principal/DSL/Deputy DSL) will discuss the concerns or allegations with the member of staff who has reported them and will, where necessary, take any immediate steps to ensure the safety of the child/all children affected.

The safeguarding team will use their professional judgement to determine whether it is appropriate for alleged behaviour to be resolved internally or whether any external specialist support is required. This may include consultation with children's social care and/or any other external agencies to determine the most appropriate response.