

Recognising Child Abuse

Child abuse manifests itself in a variety of different ways, some overtly and others much less so. There are many different variations of abuse a child can suffer. All staff will be trained to be vigilant to signs and evidence of Physical, Emotional, Neglect and Sexual abuse.

Further information regarding types of abuse and how to recognise the signs can be found on the NSPCC website <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/> with the following categories being covered:

Bullying and Cyberbullying
Child Sexual Exploitation
Child Trafficking
Criminal Exploitation and Gangs

Domestic Abuse
Emotional Abuse
Female Genital Mutilation
Grooming
Neglect

Non-recent Abuse
Online Abuse
Physical Abuse
Sexual Abuse

Contextual Safeguarding

FACEvents also has regard to Contextual Safeguarding as referred to in the '*Working together to Safeguard Children, 2023*' which highlights that children can be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families.

These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including: exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking, online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation (See our *Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy* for further information).

Professional Curiosity

FACEvents understands that some children and young people may not feel ready or know how to tell someone they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful. For example, children may feel embarrassed, humiliated, or are being threatened. This could be due to their vulnerability, disability and/or sexual orientation or language barriers. All FACE staff are encouraged to always have and work with a level of professional curiosity and always feel confident to speak to the DSL about any concern they feel they may have.

Child on Child Abuse, including sexual violence and harassment

FACEvents are aware that there is also the potential of child on child abuse; Please see the following Policy for further information: *Child on Child Abuse*

Absent children

Keeping Children Safe in Education states 'Children being absent from education for prolonged periods and/or on repeat occasions can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, child sexual and child criminal exploitation - particularly county lines.'

At FACE, we also recognise that children being absent from Holiday Clubs can also be a potential indicator of abuse. For this reason, we always attempt to make contact with the parent or carer when a child is unexpectedly absent and record the reasoning (or record there has been no answer) so we are able to track any potential patterns; we also make a record if a parent/carer repeatedly cancels sessions.