



Child Sexual Exploitation Policy

Policy No.16A

All staff working at Battle Preschool must be vigilant and have a duty to inform the necessary authorities if they suspect a child is being exposed sexual exploitation. A Child Sexual Exploitation policy bolsters safeguarding procedures and ensures that all children in our care are fully protected.

What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. When a child or young person is exploited, they're given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities. Children and young people are often tricked into believing they are in a loving and consensual relationship. This is called grooming. They may trust their abuser and not understand that they are being abused.

Children and young people can be trafficked into or within the UK to be sexually exploited. They are moved around the country and abused by being forced to take part in sexual activities, often with more than one person. Young people in gangs can also be sexually exploited.

Sometimes abusers use violence and intimidation to frighten or force a child or young person, making them feel as if they've no choice. They may lend them large sums of money they know can't be repaid or use financial abuse to control them.

Anybody can be a perpetrator of CSE, no matter their age, gender or race. The relationship could be framed as friendship, someone to look up to or romantic. Children and young people who are exploited may also be used to 'find' or coerce others to join groups.

Types of sexual exploitation

CSE can happen in person or online. An abuser will gain a child's trust or control them through violence or blackmail before moving onto sexually abusing them. This can happen in a short period of time.

When a child is sexually exploited online they might be persuaded or forced to:

- send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
- film or stream sexual activities
- have sexual conversations.

Once an abuser has images, video or copies of conversations, they might use threats and blackmail to force a young person to take part in other sexual activity. They may also share the images and videos with others or circulate them online.

Gangs use sexual exploitation:

- to exert power and control
- for initiation
- to use sexual violence as a weapon.

Children or young people might be invited to parties or gatherings with others their own age or adults and given drugs and alcohol. They may be assaulted and sexually abused by one person or multiple perpetrators. The sexual assaults and abuse can be violent, humiliating and degrading.

Signs of Child sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation can be difficult to spot and sometimes mistaken for "normal" teenage behaviour in siblings. Knowing the signs can help protect children and help them when they've no one else to turn to.

They may not know where they are, because they've been moved around the country, and seem frightened, confused or angry.

A child might know they're being sexually exploited. They might be worried or confused and less likely to speak to an adult they trust.

Signs of Sexual Abuse and Grooming

- Unhealthy or inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Being frightened of some people, places or situations
- Being secretive
- Sharp changes in mood or character
- Having money or things they cannot explain
- Physical signs of abuse, like bruises or bleeding in the genital area
- Sexually transmitted infections

Other things you might notice

- Having a new group of friends
- Missing from Home or care, or stopping going to preschool

If a child reveals abuse

If a child talks to you about sexual exploitation it's important to:

- listen carefully to what they're saying
- let them know they've done the right thing by telling you
- tell them it's not their fault
- say you'll take them seriously
- don't confront the alleged abuser
- explain what you'll do next
- report what the child has told you as soon as possible.

Effects of child sexual exploitation

Both sexual exploitation in person and online can have long-term effects on a child or young person.

They may:

- struggle with trust and be fearful of forming new relationships
- become isolated from family and friends
- have mental health problems



Preventing Child sexual exploitation

Talk to Children

Teaching children and young people about healthy relationships and how to stay safe online can help prevent sexual exploitation. These foundations can be laid from a young age. The PANTS rules are a simple way to teach younger children how to stay safe from abuse.

It's also important to make sure children and young people know there are trusted adults they can speak to about their worries, including Childline.

How to keep children safe online

Encourage transparency in what your children are doing online. You can keep gaming devices and computers and laptops with webcams in the living room or family spaces. Use parental controls and keep up-to-date on the apps and games children and young people are using. NetAware is regularly updated and has age ratings, information and advice.

Reporting Child Sexual Exploitation

Preschool staff will report ALL suspected situations of Child sexual exploitation.

- Inform the Safeguarding lead KATE LONGLEY, or the Senior Manager on duty immediately.
- They will call 999 if the child is considered at immediate risk, or call 101 if they think a crime has been committed

This policy was adopted at a trustees meeting of	Battle Pre-School Playgroup
Held on	12th September 2024
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