



Stillness Junior School

Safeguarding News

Issue 2 – Spring Term

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual, emotional and physical abuse of children. There is an often common misconception that this only happens to older children but there have been cases of both girls and boys experiencing abuse of this type from as young as 8.

Please visit our school website for further safeguarding information

As a rough guide, child sexual exploitation can be defined in the following terms:

- A person under 18 is sexually exploited when they are coerced into sexual activities by one or more person(s) who have deliberately targeted their youth and inexperience in order to exercise power over them.
- Child sexual exploitation may occur through the use of technology without the child's consent or immediate recognition; for example through being persuaded to post sexual images over the internet or via mobile phone.

Child exploitation is often conducted with actual violence or the threat of violence.

This may be threats towards the child, or her or his family and may prevent the child from disclosing the abuse, or exiting the cycle of exploitation. Indeed, the child may be so confused by the process, that they do not perceive any abuse at all.

Spotting the signs of CSE

Child sexual exploitation happens when a child has been persuaded that sexual activity is a "normal" part of adult life.

Adolescence is a time of experimentation and can be a particularly challenging period for parents and their children. Most parents understand the value of young people learning about themselves through new experiences, but also want to protect their child from harm.



Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs Mitzi Nichol
Headteacher

Ms Amy Polglaze
Deputy Headteacher

If your child is affected, then it is also important to remember:

- It's not your fault. Child sexual exploitation happens to girls and boys from all types of family.
- You are not alone – many parents have gone through what you are going through and do understand.
- It is also not your child's fault.
- This is child abuse and the fault of the abuser(s).

Useful Sites to Visit:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/child-sexual-exploitation/>

<http://www.itsnotokay.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

There could be cause for concern if your child is exhibiting three or more of the following warning signs:

- **He or she becomes especially secretive and stops engaging with their usual friends.** They may be particularly prone to sharp mood swings; many parents report that their child seems to have acquired an entirely different personality. Whilst mood swings are common to all adolescents, it is the severity of behaviour change that is most indicative.
- **They may be associating with, or develop a relationship with older men and/or women** (although bear in mind that the perpetrators could approach the child through a peer from school who is already being exploited, or through the youngest member of the grooming network).
- They may go missing from home – and be defensive about their location and activities, often returning home late or staying out all night. (again, perpetrators know that parents will immediately suspect something is wrong if their child stays out all night, so they may initially drop the child off at the home address and before their curfew. They may even pick them up outside the school gates).
- **They may receive odd calls and messages on their mobiles or social media** pages from unknown, possibly much older associates from outside their normal social network.
- **They may be in possession of new, expensive items** which they couldn't normally afford, such as mobile phones, iPods or jewellery.

Your child may also:

- Exhibit a sudden change in dressing patterns or musical taste
 - Look tired and/or unwell, and sleep at unusual hours
- Have marks or scars on their body which they try to conceal
- Adopt new “street language” or respond to a new street name

CSE perpetrators are both skilled and strategic; they aim to drive a wedge between you and your child, closing down the normal channels of communication and emotional bond between you.

If you are concerned that your child may be at risk of or is indeed involved in CSE then please contact one of our Safeguarding Leads, either
Mrs Mitzi Nichol (Headteacher) or Miss Amy Polglaze (Deputy Headteacher)
On the school phone number 0208 690 1416 for support.

Technology is fast-moving, exciting and changing the way we live; giving instant access to information, people, music, games and films. Even better, we can do all this whenever we want using a range of devices. The joy of technology is that everyone has easy access to it. However, this also means we need to recognise that not everyone or everything is as it seems.

At Stillness Junior School we teach children from an early age about how to stay safe online. As parents and carers you probably feel that our children understand and use technology with a greater understanding than you.

E-Safety encompasses Internet technologies and electronic communications such as mobile phones as well as collaboration tools and personal publishing. It highlights the need to educate pupils about the benefits and risks of using technology and provides safeguards and awareness for users to enable them to control their online experience.

The school's e-safety policy will operate in conjunction with other policies including those for ICT, Behaviour, Bullying, Curriculum, Child Protection, Data Protection and Security. Thinkuknow.co.uk