

What is Child-on-child abuse?

Child-on-child (previously Peer on peer) abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and / or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age. Child on child abuse involves children under the age of 18. Where one of those involved is over 18, refer to the [WT policy on bullying](#).

'Child-on-child' abuse can relate to various forms of abuse (not just sexual abuse and exploitation), and crucially it does not capture the fact that the behaviour in question is harmful to the child perpetrator as well as the victim.

Child-on child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)
- Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be a standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party
- Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)

It is recognised that many forms of child-on-child abuse can be online, occur via social media or other electronic platforms.

Who is at risk?

Research suggests that girls and young women are more at risk of abusive behaviours perpetrated by their peers; however, it can also affect boys and young men. Those with learning difficulties or disabilities, LGBTQ Children and young people and those who are from different communities may be particularly vulnerable.

It must be recognised that peers' abusive behaviour can have similarly devastating consequences to that perpetrated by adults against children and young people.

What are the signs of abuse?

Signs and signals that a child or young person is suffering from child-on-child abuse are likely to reflect those shown by children or young people suffering from other kinds of abuse.

What should you do if you suspect a girl or boy is being subject to child on child abuse?

Report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the [WT Child Protection Policy](#). Concerns can be about incidents or activities outside of tuition e.g. at school, weekends or evenings as these are all part of the picture. Winchmore Tutors can then take supporting action and/or pass on concerns to the relevant agencies.

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If you witness abusive behaviour that could be illegal (such as a violent or racist act) or you believe that any young person could be at immediate risk due to the abusive behaviour of others, you should contact the police.

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Signed:

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