**Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a young person to take part in sexual activities including non-contact activities, such as looking at or making indecent images.

**Key features**
- Aggression
- Withdrawn
- Self-harming, incl. eating disorders, head banging.
- Sexually explicit behaviours/sexual contact with younger children or older adults.
- Promiscuity
- Soiling/smearing faeces.
- Reluctance to remove clothing for swimming or PE
- Signs of grooming—unexplained gifts, excessive secrecy online etc.
- Regular drug/alcohol use from early age.
- Running away.
- Pregnancy/STI's

The internet has increased the risk of non-contact sexual abuse and students must be alert to these dangers when online.

**Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse involves any action that causes physical harm to a young person including fabricating the symptoms of or deliberately inducing illnesses.

**Key features**
- Bruising of various ages/burns and scalds without reasonable explanation, parents and students story differs.
- Bite marks
- Fractures/bruising in non-mobile children
- Overmedication/force feeding
- Injuries in unusual areas or outline of implement e.g. cigarette, hair straightener, belt.
- Refusal to discuss injuries/Inconsistent explanations
- Parents claim fits/episodes’ at home which are never observed in school
- Talk of punishment which seems excessive
- Concerned about younger siblings without saying why
- Reluctance to remove clothing for swimming or PE
- The parents are uninterested/undisturbed by an injury or accident.

**Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child.

**Key features**
- Extreme emotional outbursts/challenge authority.
- Development delay with no medical explanation
- Disassociation/Lack of attachment/Lack of normal response, not jumping at loud noise etc.
- Low self-esteem
- Over affectionate to strangers
- Lack of confidence/social skills/friends
- Doesn't want to go home/have friends to visit
- Regressing to younger child behaviours
- Reckless to their own or others safety

**Further Information**

Often signs and indicators cross over different categories. Remember SEND children may develop at different rates to peers. However staff must be alert to general changes in behaviour and bear in mind that challenging, disruptive behaviour can be a sign of abuse.

For more information see statutory guidance;

Keeping Children Safe in Education KCSIE

**Neglect**

Neglect is the failure to meet a young person’s physical and psychological needs.

**Key features**
- Inadequate clothing -size/weather.
- Underweight for age but eats well in school/ doesn't have lunch or money for food.
- Frequent school absences/ poor punctuality
- Parents are dismissive, uninterested.
- Poor health/not taken to GP or dentist when needed
- Emotionally needy
- Persistently unkempt/body odour
- Accidental injuries indicating a lack of supervision

**High Risk Factors**

- Domestic Abuse—at home or in peer relationships
- Parental substance misuse
- Poor parental mental health
- Parents with learning difficulties
- Children with disabilities
- Families with past history of child abuse