

HCFS Child-on-Child Abuse Quick Reference Guide

Definitions

Child-on-Child Abuse: Any kind of abuse between children, but has come to refer to sexual abuse.

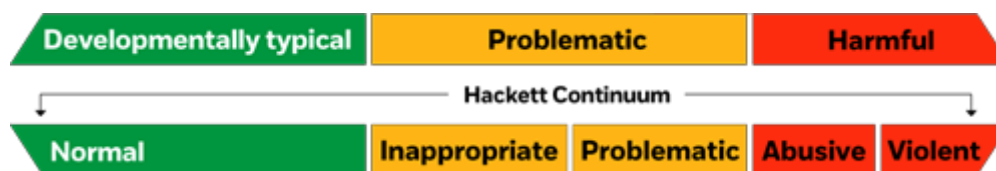
Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment: Specifically sexual abuse across a spectrum of behaviours.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour: Developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour displayed by children which may be harmful or abusive.

Examples of Child-on-Child Abuse

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| Inappropriate or unwanted touching | Taking a picture under a person's clothing, without their consent | Sharing sexual images of a person without their consent |
| Sexual harassment | Pressuring, forcing or coercing others to perform or take part in sexual acts; or share nude images | Sexual or sexist name calling |

Hackett's Continuum of Sexual Behaviour in children



| Normal | Inappropriate | Problematic | Abusive | Violent |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developmentally expected - Socially acceptable - Consensual, mutual, reciprocal - Shared decision making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single instances of inappropriate sexual behaviour - Socially acceptable behaviour within peer group - Context for behaviour may be inappropriate - Generally consensual and reciprocal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Problematic and concerning behaviours - Developmentally unusual and socially unexpected - No overt elements of victimisation - Consent issues may be unclear - May lack reciprocity or equal power - May include levels of compulsivity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victimising intent or outcome - Includes misuse of power - Coercion and force to ensure victim compliance - Intrusive - Informed consent lacking, or not able to be freely given by victim - May include elements of expressive violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physically violent sexual abuse - Highly intrusive - Instrumental violence which is physiologically and/or sexually arousing to the perpetrator - Sadism |

GREEN LIGHT

Green light behaviours are sexual behaviours that are typical and developmentally appropriate.

ORANGE

Orange light behaviours are sexual behaviours which cause concern.

RED LIGHT

Red light behaviours are sexual behaviours which indicate or cause harm.

Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool for children aged between 5-11 years

| Green Light Behaviours | Orange Light Behaviours | Red Light Behaviours |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased sense of privacy about their own body - Body touching and holding own genitals - Masturbation, usually with awareness of privacy - Curiosity about other children's genitals involving looking at and/or touching the bodies of familiar children - Curiosity about sexuality e.g. questions about babies, gender, relationships, sexual activity - Telling stories or asking questions using swear words, 'toilet' words or names for private parts - Use of mobile phones and internet in relationships with known peers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-masturbation in preference to other activities, whether in private or in public or with peers, and/or causing self-injury - Explicit talk, art or play of sexual nature - Persistent questions about sexuality despite being answered - Persistent nudity and/or exposing private parts in presence of others - Persistently watching or following others to look at or touch them - Pulling other children's pants down or skirts up against their will - Persistently mimicking sexual flirting behaviour too advanced for their age, with other children or adults - Touching genitals/private parts of animals - Covert/secret use of mobile phones and internet with known and unknown people which may include giving out identifying details - Attempts to do any of the above in secret | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compulsive masturbation to the point of self-harm or seeking an audience - Disclosure of sexual abuse - Persistent bullying involving sexual aggression - Simulation of, or participation in, sexual activities, including sexual behaviour with younger or less able children, e.g. oral sex, sexual intercourse - Accessing the rooms of sleeping children to touch or engage in sexual activity - Presence of a sexually transmitted infection - Any sexual activity with animals - Use of mobile phones and internet for sending or receiving sexual images |

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare, act on them immediately – don't wait for a disclosure:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ask the child outright if they've been harmed and what the nature of the harm was ✓ Listen and reassure them that they will be supported and kept safe ✓ Reflect back, using their language ✓ Be mindful that some children may face additional barriers to disclosure because of their vulnerability, disability, gender, ethnicity and/or sexual orientation ✓ Remember that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This may only be the first incident the child has reported - Trauma can impact memory, so the child may not be able to recall all of the details of timeline of the abuse ✓ Make a written record, using the HCFS Cause for Concern Form, as soon as possible, stating only the facts. Pass to the DSP ✓ Where appropriate, take action yourself: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, make a referral to children's social care - If an offence has been committed, report it to the police (even if the alleged perpetrator(s) is under 10). You can confiscate devices as evidence for the police, if the report includes an online element - Find out whether the victim and alleged perpetrator(s) share classes, premises or transport, and consider how to keep them a reasonable distance apart while on the premises, including both before and after school | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Dismiss the incident as 'banter', 'part of growing up' or 'having a laugh' ✗ Ask leading question ✗ Promise total confidentiality – explain who you will need to tell and why ✗ View photos or videos of a sexual nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you do so by accident or think you might need to in order to deal with the issue effectively, talk to the DSP ✗ Take notes while the child is talking, if at all possible ✗ Tell anyone about the disclosure unless they need to know in order to progress it |
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Even without specific information, HCFS staff are expected to act on the assumption that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are a problem

