

Appendix 2: Further information on signs of abuse

Physical abuse

PHYSICAL SIGNS OF ABUSE	BEHAVIOURAL SIGNS OF ABUSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexplained bruises and welts on the face, throat, arms, buttocks, thighs or lower back in unusual patterns or shapes which suggests the use of an instrument • Unexplained burns, especially burns found on palms, soles of feet, abdomen or buttocks • Scald marks: immersion burns produce 'stocking' or 'glove' marks on feet and hands or upward splash marks, which may suggest hot water has been thrown over a child • Human bite marks • Broken bones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural extremes (withdrawal, aggression or depression) • Unbelievable or inconsistent explanations of injuries • Fear of parents being contacted • Flinching when approached or touched • Truancy or running away from home

Emotional abuse

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating disorders, including obesity or anorexia • Speech disorders (stammering) • Nervous disorders (rashes, hives, facial tics, stomach aches) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of parent being approached • Fear of making mistakes • Developmental delay in terms of emotional progress • Cruel behaviour towards children, adults or animals • Self-harm • Behavioural extremes, such as overly compliant/demanding, withdrawn/aggressive, listless/excitable
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Sexual abuse

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torn, stained or bloody underclothes • Pain or itching in genital area • Bruises or bleeding near genital area or anus • Sexually transmitted infections • Pregnancy • Discomfort when walking or sitting down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-harm • Sexual knowledge or behaviour (promiscuity) that is beyond their age/developmental level • Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour • Avoidance of undressing or wearing extra layers of clothing • Truancy • Regressive behaviours (bed-wetting or fear of dark)
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Neglect

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height and weight significantly below age level • Body odour (lice, dirt etc) • Inappropriate clothing for weather conditions • Indicators of prolonged exposure to the elements (sunburn, chapped extremities, insect bites) • Constant hunger, sometimes stealing food from others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erratic attendance at school • Chronic hunger or tiredness • Having few friends • Assuming adult responsibilities
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Child Sexual Exploitation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiredness or mood swings • Bruising • Sexually transmitted diseases • Pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden decline in school performance, punctuality, attendance • In possession of expensive goods • Going to place they cannot afford • Age-inappropriate clothing • Inappropriate sexualised behaviour • Secretive • Deterioration in mental well-being • Mixing with older people • Misuse of drugs and alcohol
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Child criminal exploitation and county lines

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>See sections on physical and sexual abuse</i> • Carrying weapons • Have been the victim or perpetrator of serious violence (eg knife crime) • Exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection • Found in accommodation that they have no connection with, often called a 'trap house or cuckooing' or hotel room where there is drug activity; owe a 'debt bond' to their exploiters • Have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-harming • Persistently going missing from School or home and/or being found out of area • Deterioration in mental well-being • Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones • Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls and/or having multiple handsets • Relationships with controlling older individuals or groups • Significant decline in School performance • Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks • Involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs
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Female genital Mutilation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty walking, sitting or standing • Bladder or menstrual problems • Severe pain and bleeding • Infections such as tetanus, HIV and hepatitis B and C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abroad for a prolonged period abnormal • Unusual behaviour after a period of absence • May talk of a 'special procedure' or 'special occasion to become a woman' • Spending longer periods in the bathroom • Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations
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Forced marriage

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut or shaved hair as a form of punishment for being disobedient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence from School • Failure to return from visit to country of origin • Self-harm or attempted suicide • Running away from home • Early marriage of siblings • Sudden announcement of engagement to a stranger
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Grooming

See section on sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending increasingly prolonged time online • Having older boyfriends or girlfriends • Secretiveness about who they are talking to online and what sites they visit • Possession of electronic devices such as mobile phones or webcams that parents have not provided • Engaging less with their usual friends • Using sexual language that you would not expect them to know • Going to unusual places to meet people • Using drugs and/or alcohol • Going missing from home or School
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Radicalisation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • out of character changes in dress, behaviour, and peer relationships • Embracing conspiracy theories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing sympathy for extremist causes • Glorifying violence • Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasingly judgemental or argumentative • Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations such as 'Muslims Against Crusades' or other non- proscribed extremist groups such as the English Defence League 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others • Unwilling to engage with or being abusive to pupils who are different • Increased secretiveness, especially in relation to internet use eg changing online identity or having more than one online identity • Unwillingness or inability to discuss their views • Feeling persecuted
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Broad government guidance on the following is also available via the GOV.UK website (see Part one: Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2023)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bullying, including cyberbullying • children missing education • child missing from home or care • child sexual exploitation • domestic violence • drugs • fabricated or induced illness • faith abuse • female genital mutilation (FGM) • gangs and youth violence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG) • hate • mental health • missing children and adults • private fostering • preventing radicalisation • sexting • trafficking |
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