

# Safeguarding Signs: Child-On-Child Sexual Abuse

## ? What is it?

All forms of sexual harassment, sexual violence and sexually harmful behaviour that occurs between two (or more) children or young people



## 👁️ Things to Look Out For

**Physical signs** of sexual abuse

**Behavioural changes** (e.g sudden mood swings, self-harm, or withdrawal from social activities)

Changes in **academic performance**

Difficulty with **personal boundaries**

**Inappropriate sexual behaviour**

Increased use of **drugs or alcohol**

Child-on-child sexual abuse is often unreported due to shame and stigma. Even if there are no reported cases, never assume it's not happening.

## ! Risk factors

**For victims** – female, over ten years old, experience of abuse or neglect, difficulty expressing own needs, lack of parental supervision, mental health issues

**For perpetrators** – exposure to violence or sexual content, experience of abuse or neglect, lack of understanding of healthy relationships, power imbalances, difficulty regulating own emotions

## ➔ What Can I Do?

Teach and empower pupils to create a safe and equal environment

Challenge sexual comments and 'banter'

Report concerns to your DSL

### Find out more:

Quick Look:  
Safeguarding –  
Child-On-Child  
Sexual Abuse

