

# Child on Child Abuse

Children can be abused by other young people, in school, the local community and online. Child on child abuse can upset and hurt others both physically and emotionally. These effects can have a lasting impact on wellbeing.

Child-on- Child Abuse is defined as physical (eg hitting, kicking) , sexual, or emotional abuse, exploitation, sexual harassment, all forms of bullying, (including cyber bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying) coercive control, hazing/ Initiation rituals between children and young people, both on and off line (including that which is within intimate personal relationships (adapted for Keeping Children Safe In Education, DfE 2023)

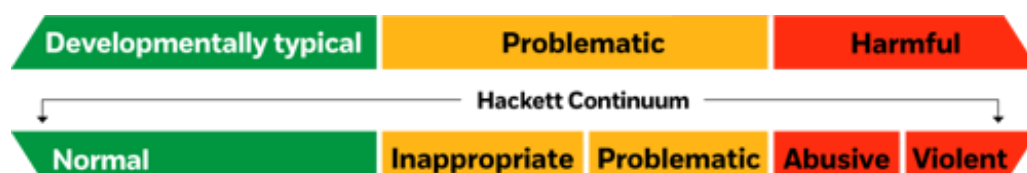
Young people may not initially be able to recognise all forms of abuse because they don't understand it, recognise it is happening or believe it to be 'messaging', 'joking' or 'banter'.

## Harmful sexual behaviour

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour displayed by children and young people which is harmful or abusive,

HSB is a form of child-on-child abuse where sexual abuse takes place between children of a similar age or stage of development. ([NSPCC](#))

Hackett's continuum presents sexualised behaviour as a range from 'normal' to 'inappropriate', 'problematic', 'abusive' and 'violent'



Examples of harmful sexual behaviour in young people include:

- Sexual harassment and name calling
- Sharing sexual pictures of someone without their consent
- Sharing sexual pictures of themselves without the person they're sending it to being clear that they would like to see them
- Pretending to love or like someone so they agree to sexual activity
- Viewing sexual images of children online
- Having sexual activity with someone who is significantly more drunk than themselves
- Befriending a younger child in order to do something sexual and asking them not to tell
- Inappropriate , non consensual touching of others
- Having sexual activity with someone without their explicit consent

**Talking to your child about online sexual I harassment : A guide for parents**

[https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/?utm\\_source=16%20December%202021%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/?utm_source=16%20December%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)