

# Understanding how to identify and respond to child sexual abuse – a course for the education workforce

*Four 90-minute sessions*

£850 + VAT for 6 to 25 participants

**Please note:** There is an increased fee to deliver this course face-to-face.

## About the course

This course provides an overview of the key issues, to help all professionals in education to develop a better knowledge and understanding of child sexual abuse. Topics covered include the scale and nature of child sexual abuse, its impact, the possible signs and indicators of such abuse, and how to talk to children when there are concerns. You will learn about intra-familial child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving peers.

Everyone working in education has a responsibility to safeguard children, so this course is for all teachers (including early career teachers and those returning to education), pastoral staff and support staff. Governors and trustees who want to develop their knowledge in this area will also benefit by attending.

*“School and college staff are particularly important, as they are in a position to identify concerns early, provide help for children, promote children’s welfare and prevent concerns from escalating.” (Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021)*

This course can be tailored to staff in primary schools, or those in secondary schools and colleges.



## What you can expect to learn

- A better understanding of how to support safeguarding in your school by increasing your knowledge of child sexual abuse and sexually harmful behaviours.
- Improved confidence in responding to concerns by:
  - understanding the scale and nature of child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour for school-age children
  - understanding the impact of sexual abuse and sexually harmful behaviours in education settings
  - being more alert to how the signs and indicators of sexual abuse may present themselves in the children that you teach and/or care for
  - being alert to additional vulnerabilities that are present for some children, including learning and communication needs
  - understanding the barriers that children face in telling school professionals about sexual abuse they have experienced or are experiencing
  - understanding how to talk to children in your setting when there are concerns of sexual abuse
  - understanding what information to record, and how, when you are concerned about a child
  - knowing the role of a trusted adult and understanding how this contributes to safeguarding children in your education setting.

## How the course will be run

### Session 1

- The scale and nature of child sexual abuse.
- Improving your knowledge and understanding of developmentally expected behaviours.


### Session 2

- The impact of child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour, and how this can present in education settings.
- Understanding the potential signs and indicators of child sexual abuse and how to record these.

### Session 3

- How to identify challenges you may face in your setting and how these can be overcome.
- How barriers prevent children telling someone about the sexual abuse they are experiencing or have experienced.
- Communicating with children where there are concerns.

### Session 4

- Understanding harmful sexual behaviour, including that which is technology-assisted.
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- Understanding how a whole-school approach can help to safeguard all children.

## Additional resources

- PowerPoint slides for attendees to refer back to and keep for reflection.
- A digital copy of *Signs and indicators: A template for identifying and responding to concerns of child sexual abuse*.
- A digital copy of *Communicating with children: A guide for those working with children who have or may have been sexually abused*.
- A digital copy of *Supporting parents and carers: A guide for those working with families affected by child sexual abuse*.
- A list of useful resources, reports and research to support your work and ongoing learning.

## What past attendees said about this course

**“This has been a hugely informative and interesting training programme ... I will take away a lot of helpful information to share with colleagues and put into practice on the ground. The opportunity to discuss with colleagues and share experiences has been valuable. There is a lot in the approach that will be put to good use in training staff more widely. Many thanks.”**

**Deputy head, Pastoral and Safeguarding Lead**

**“This has been an incredibly valuable course. Not only due to the quality of the delivery, but the contributions from other schools who have such an array of different experience and evidence.”**

**Assistant head, juniors**

