



**Pearson**

**Safeguarding Learners  
Definitions**

# Definitions

In our safeguarding **policy, principles** and **procedures** documents, we use a number of technical terms and this document explains what we mean by these terms. Some of these terms will be defined differently depending on the country or State in which we operate and where that is the case we adopt the local definition.

1. **Safeguarding agency:** A safeguarding agency is any organisation whether statutory or a non-government organisation, that is mandated to investigate and/or offer support to children and families where there is a safeguarding concern.
2. **Abuse:** The term 'abuse' has a number of different definitions in the countries and states that we work in. Where there is a local definition we should adopt that, however, organisationally these are the definitions we use. The World Health Organisation's definition of 'child abuse or maltreatment' is that it constitutes:

*"All forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power."*

Pearson has adopted the same broad definition to define the scope of key obligations it has for *all* learners to whom it owes a duty of care.

Abuse involves the physical, psychological or sexual maltreatment of an individual. In broad and non-exhaustive terms, the categories of abuse are:

- **Physical Abuse:** This may arise from any form of non-accidental injury. It might involve hitting, shaking, throwing, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise intentionally causing physical harm.
- **Emotional or Psychological Abuse:** This may arise from communicating to a student in ways that belittle them or in ways that suggest they are worthless, unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It can also involve age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed or communications which make a student feel threatened or in danger.
- **Neglect:** This is inadequate care or supervision which leaves a student in a situation where they could be subjected to avoidable harm. Examples include the persistent lack of appropriate care, including stimulation, safety, warmth and medical attention.
- **Sexual Abuse:** This involves forcing, enticing or encouraging a student to take part in sexual activities, whether or not they are aware of what is happening or give consent. The activities may involve physical contact, including non-penetrative acts as

well as non-contact activities, such as exposure to pornographic materials or causing a student to watch or take part in sexual activities, or encouraging a student to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

- **Financial Abuse or Exploitation:** This is the unauthorized or improper use of the resources of a student for profit or gain.
  - **Bullying :** This is an intentional act that causes or threatens harm to others, and may involve verbal harassment, verbal or non-verbal threats, physical assault, stalking, or other methods of coercion such as manipulation, blackmail, or extortion. It is aggressive behaviour that intends to hurt, threaten or frighten another person. Bullying may take place online or in the real world. Typically the two will go together. Irrespective of the location or the time at which any bullying behaviour takes place if it impacts upon the learner's educational experience or relationship with Pearson then it is a matter of concern to Pearson and falls within the terms of this policy.
  - **Children and young people with sexually harmful behaviour :** This is where "young people (below the age of 18 years old) who engage in any form of sexual activity with another individual, that they have powers over by virtue of age, emotional maturity, gender, physical strength, intellect and where the victim in this relationship has suffered a sexual exploitation and betrayal of trust. Sexual activity includes sexual intercourse, sexual touching, exposure of sexual organs, showing pornographic material, exhibitionism, voyeurism, obscene communication (frottage), fetishism and talking in a sexualised way. We should also include any form of sexual activity with an animal, and where a young person sexually abuses an adult" (adapted from Palmer, 1995). Calder 2002.
3. **Child sexual exploitation:** The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example the persuasion to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones with no immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability. (The National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People, 2008)

4. **Child and young person Trafficking:** a child has been trafficked if he or she has been moved within a country, or across borders, whether by force or not, with the purpose of exploiting the child.
5. **Sexual Harassment:** is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other verbal, nonverbal, graphic, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.