

**ST CUTHBERT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHILD EXPLOITATION - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**



THIS INFORMATION IS INTENDED TO EDUCATE AND RAISE AWARENESS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

WHO MIGHT BE TARGETED?

Any child may be targeted; however some groups are particularly vulnerable. These include children and young people who:

- Have low self-esteem and/or low self-confidence.
- Have a history of running away or going missing from home.
- Are in residential or foster care.
- Are disengaged from education.
- May be abusing alcohol and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIGNS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

- Going missing for periods of time or regularly returning home late.
- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions.
- Possession of multiple phones and preoccupation with them.
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.
- Isolated from peers and social networks.
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections.
- Mood swings, challenging behaviour or changes in emotional wellbeing.
- Drug and alcohol misuse.
- Showing inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- Involved in anti-social behaviour and crime such as shoplifting.
- Having friends on social networking sites, e.g. Facebook who are not their friends in real life.

WHAT CAN I DO?

YOU CAN HELP BY IDENTIFYING A CHILD WHO MAY BE AT RISK:

- Check social media sites, be aware of who they are friends with.
- Be alert to changes in behaviour or any physical signs.
- Think how you can support children to share information if they are worried about their own or others behaviour.
- Recognise the importance of intervening early. It may be possible to protect a young person as risks emerge and prevent opportunities for sexual offending.
- Be familiar with the Newcastle Safeguarding Children's Board (NSCB) <http://intranet.newcastle.gov.uk/core.nsf/a/safeguarding> child protection procedures and understand your role in them

You can also help by sharing information about possible offenders, locations or vehicles that may concern you.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!