

# SIGNS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

### IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND



#### ARE THEY LATE OR ABSENT A LOT?

Have they started staying out later or overnight? Skipping classes or absent from school? Are they secretive or refuse to say where they've been and with who?



#### ARE THEY BEHAVING UNUSUALLY AROUND THEIR PHONE OR ONLINE?

Is your friend getting more messages or phone calls than usual? Do they have a new phone or unexplained credit? Are they spending more time online? Or are they avoiding their phone and going online altogether?



#### ARE THEY REGULARLY DRUNK OR TAKING DRUGS?

Is your friend drunk a lot of the times you see them or taking drugs regularly? Do they seem to be able to get hold of drink or drugs more easily?



#### DO THEY GET LIFTS FROM PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW?

Have you noticed your friend getting picked up or dropped off, or heard them talk about going to new places in cars with people you don't know?



#### DO THEY ACT DIFFERENTLY?

Is your friend hanging around with a new crowd or person? Has their mood changed? Do they go to new or unusual places to meet these friends? Have they lost interest in the things they used to enjoy?



#### HAS THE WAY THEY DRESS CHANGED?

They could just be trying out a new look but have they started dressing in a sexier way than normal? Have they said where they got the new clothes from or how they got the money to buy them?



#### DO THEY HAVE UNEXPLAINED INJURIES?

Do they have bruises, marks or injuries that they can't or won't explain? Do they often visit the hospital accident and emergency department? Or are they refusing to go and get any help?



#### DO THEY HAVE NEW GROWN-UP FRIENDS?

Are they hanging around with new, grown-up friends? Friends who have money to buy them things?



#### ARE THEY BEING GIVEN GIFTS?

Do they have new, expensive things but won't say where they came from or how they got the money to buy them? New trainers, computer games, a mobile phone or jewellery? Does someone keep buying them food or cigarettes?

If you recognise any of these warning signs of child sexual exploitation and you're concerned that something might be wrong, there are people you can talk to.

visit

[bedfordshireagainstcse.org](http://bedfordshireagainstcse.org)

to find out more

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### GUIDANCE FOR YOURSELF



#### IS SOMEONE NEW SHOWING YOU LOTS OF ATTENTION?

We all like to feel wanted but if someone new has suddenly started showing you lots of attention ask yourself why – what might they want from you in return?



#### ARE YOU BEING GIVEN NICE THINGS?

Does someone give you things like phone credit, food, clothes, cigarettes, alcohol or drugs? This can feel good at first but if they start asking for sex or sexual acts in return then this is sexual exploitation.



#### HAVE YOU BEEN OFFERED LIFTS?

Has someone you've only recently met started to offer you lifts in their car? Have they suggested you visit new places together? Do they sometimes expect something in return?



#### ARE YOU BEING SECRETIVE ABOUT WHO YOU'RE WITH?

Are you scared to tell the truth about who you've been spending time with and what you've been doing? Or are you being told to keep a new friendship or relationship secret?



#### IS IT GETTING HARDER TO SEE YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS?

Is someone telling you that your family or friends don't love you or understand you like they do? Do they say that your family and friends are holding you back or treating you like a child? Someone who's trying to control you may say these sorts of things.



#### DO YOU DO THINGS TO KEEP SOMEONE HAPPY?

Does someone flip between being very nice to you and very nasty? Do you feel under pressure to do the things they want to keep them happy? Someone who really cares about you won't ever force or pressurise you to do something you don't want to do.



#### IS SOMEONE ENCOURAGING YOU TO DRINK OR TAKE DRUGS?

Telling you to relax and enjoy yourself? Do you go along with it to block out how you really feel about the things they're asking you to do in return?



#### ARE YOU BEING THREATENED?

This can be everything from making promises they don't keep to making you feel guilty, threatening you or becoming violent.



#### ARE YOU BEHAVING DIFFERENTLY?

Are you hanging around with new people at new places? Have they got you into a new kind of music? Do they ask you to dress in a certain way? Do you feel scared, ashamed or depressed? Or are you frightened to be on your own?

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