



# Fettes College

## Child Sexual Exploitation Policy 2025/26

## **FETTES COLLEGE**

### **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION POLICY**

The sexual exploitation of children and young people is an often hidden form of child sexual abuse, with distinctive elements of exploitation and exchange. In practice, the sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 might involve young people being coerced, manipulated, forced or deceived into performing and/or others performing on them, sexual activities in exchange for receiving some form of material goods or other entity (for example, food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts, affection). Sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology and without the child's immediate recognition.

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 often common features; involvement in exploitative relationships being characterized in the main by the child/young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social, economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

In some cases, the sexual activity may just take place between one young person and the perpetrator (whether an adult or peer). In other situations, a young person may be passed for sex between two or more perpetrators or this may be organised exploitation (often by criminal gangs or organised groups). Trafficking, "the movement of a child for the purpose of exploitation" is also a form of sexual exploitation and any concerns must be reported to the police.

Students are made aware of the risks of exploitation through the PSHE programme. The CEOP button is available on the PSHE page of Firefly for anyone who is being made to feel uncomfortable in an online situation. Two members of staff are CEOP Ambassadors and are therefore on hand to support and advise students and staff.

When a concern is reported or disclosure made that a child under sixteen is sexually active, a risk assessment is conducted by the school's medical staff, in consultation with the Child Protection team.

Staff at Fettes have a responsibility to follow the school's child protection procedures for reporting and sharing any concerns about Child Sexual Exploitation: as ever, if you are in any doubt, pass it on to member of the Pastoral Leadership team or Child Protection team. We must never be complacent and should be aware that this situation could affect members of our community.

Further information on trafficking can be found at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/child-trafficking/>.

**CMH/CMD**

Updated June 2025

Review June 2026