

# Safeguarding Reflection- **Domestic Abuse**

## Official definition

The UK's government definition of domestic abuse is:

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This abuse can encompass but is not limited to

- **psychological**
- **physical**
- **sexual**
- **financial**
- **emotional**

# Safeguarding Reflection- **Domestic Abuse**

**Official definition:** The UK's government definition of domestic abuse is:

**Controlling behaviour** is: a range of acts designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

**Coercive behaviour** is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.\*

\*This definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group."

(Home Office, 2013)



# Safeguarding Reflection- Domestic Abuse

Around **1 in 5** children have been exposed to domestic abuse.



Signs that a child is witnessing domestic abuse:

- Displaying withdrawn behaviour
- Suddenly behaving differently
- Acting anxious
- Displaying 'clingy' behaviour
- Behaving depressed or aggressive
- Changing eating habits
- Displaying obsessive behaviour
- Soiling clothes
- Risk taking behaviour
- Missing school
- Self-harming

A **third** of children witnessing domestic violence also experienced **another** form of abuse.



Children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to have **behavioural and emotional** problems.

Click image to play.



Secondary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLaHfZgSOYY>

Adam's Story: It follows me around

# Our Responsibility

- Schools have a duty of care; this includes ensuring that children view school as a safe retreat.
- Staff must make a DSL aware of any concerns regarding students' health and safety.
- All staff members have the responsibility to identify children at potential risk.