BRITISH COUNCIL

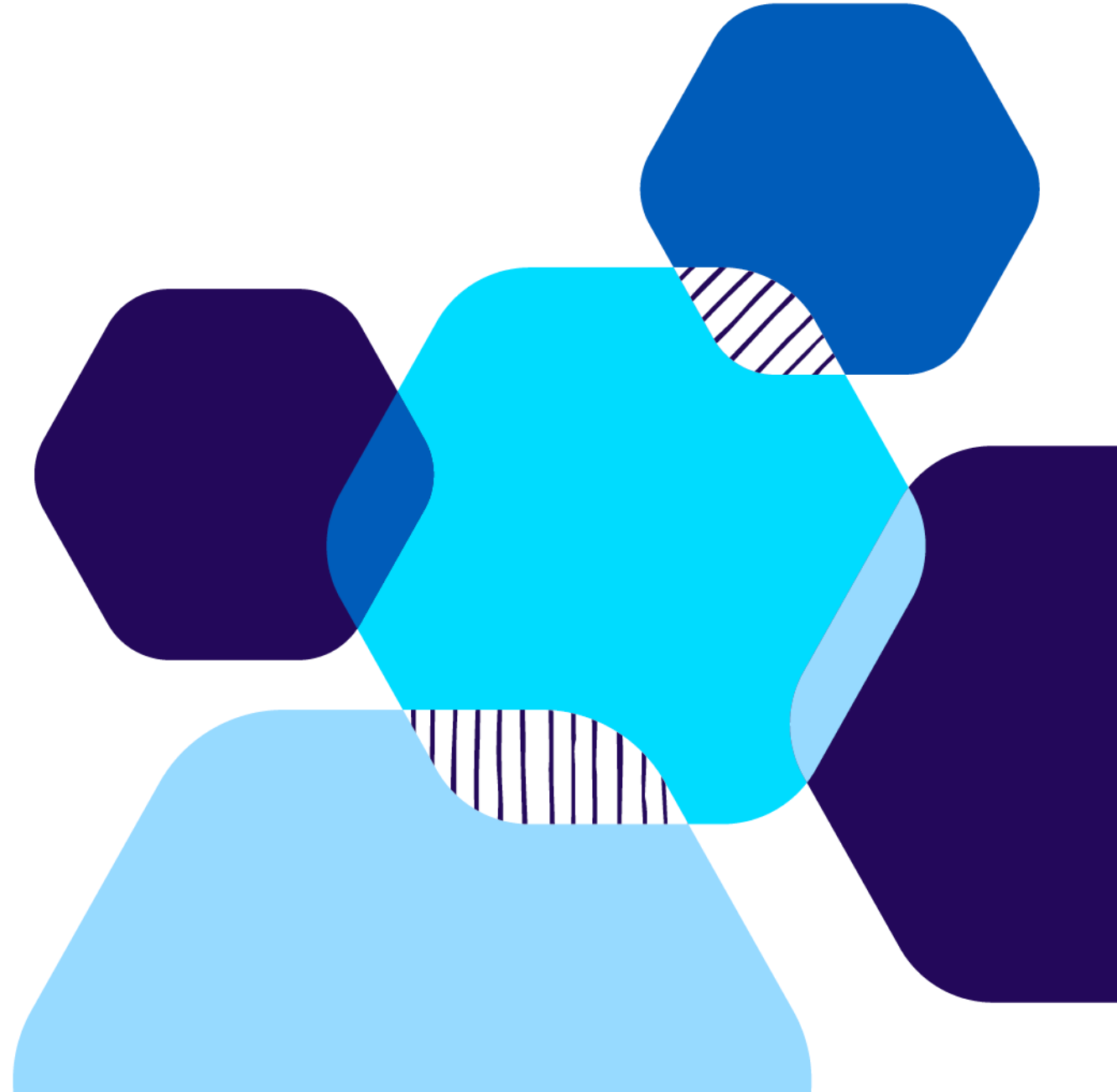**Teaching English Africa webinar**

Understanding child protection in schools

Dr. Sadiku Bashiru

Saturday 8 June 2024

www.britishcouncil.org

About the speaker

- Dr. Sadiku Bashiru Olalekan earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Ado-Ekiti in 2001, then a Master's Degree in Educational Management from the University of Ibadan in 2006. In 2017, he achieved a Ph.D. in Educational Management with a specialization in Economics from Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti.

- He has held various leadership roles in prestigious educational institutions across Nigeria e.g. S-tee British School and Caleb British International School, and is now Principal and School Coordinator at Kayron International Schools. He is also Counsellor and a Certified International Student Advisor (CISA).
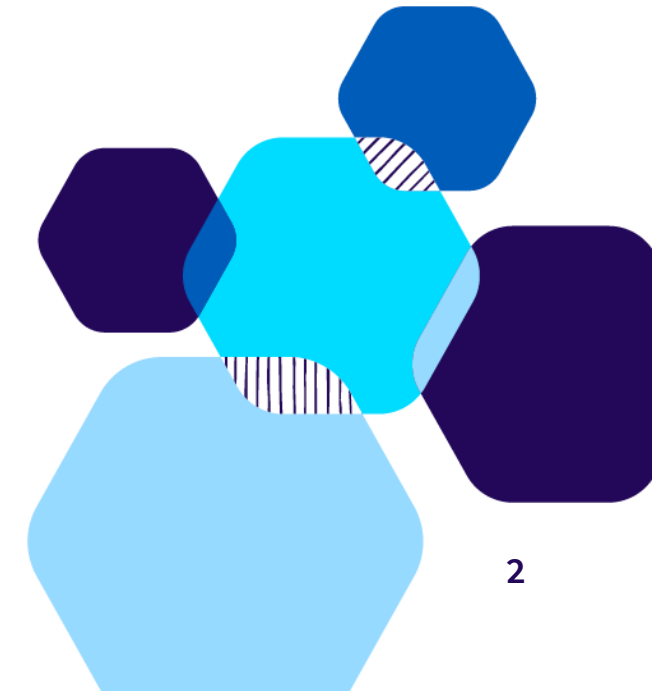
By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Understand the basic definitions of child protection.

- Understand the basic definitions of different types of child abuse.

- Identify some typical symptoms and signs of abuse.

- Follow guidance for handling a disclosure and reporting abuse.

- Appreciate non-negotiable key staff responsibilities in child protection.

- Look at some possible solutions / help.

What is 'child protection'?

Do you have any rules or laws to protect children in your country?

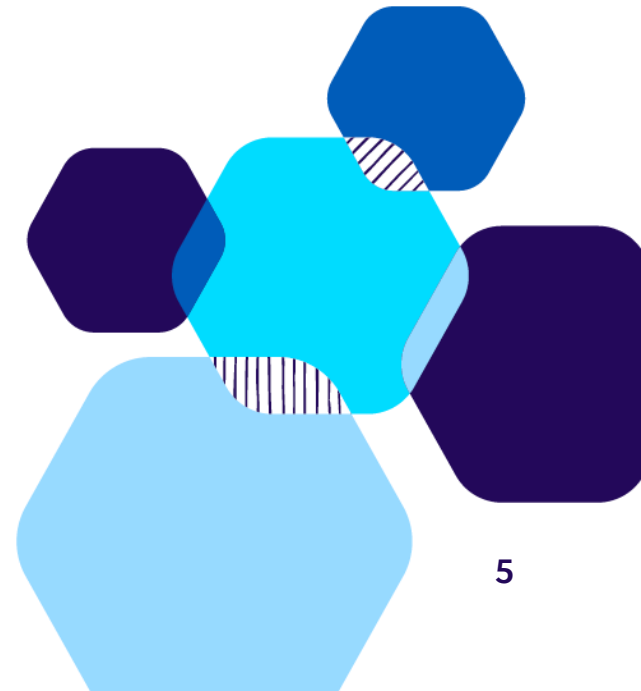# Please write in the chat.

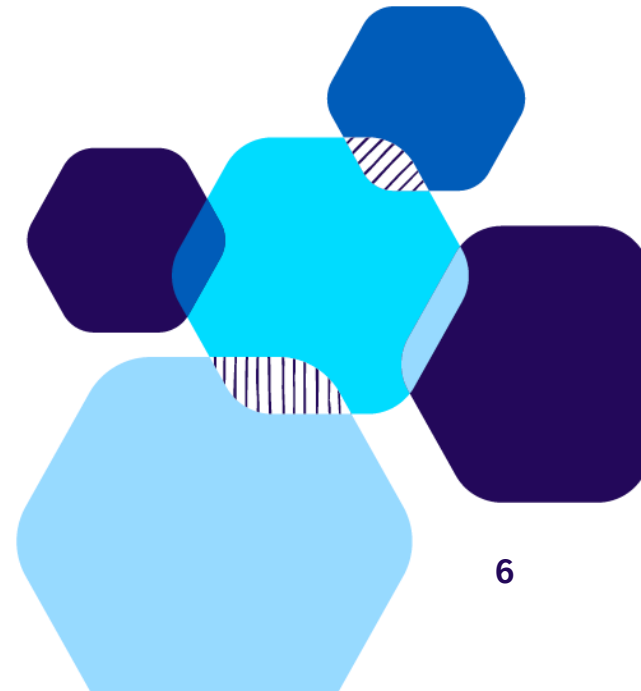# Definition – (from the field of social and child welfare):

Child Protection deals with practices that ensure children accessing services are safe, ensuring that potential abuse and neglect, along with general concerns about child well-being are identified and appropriately responded to.

Why do we need child protection laws?
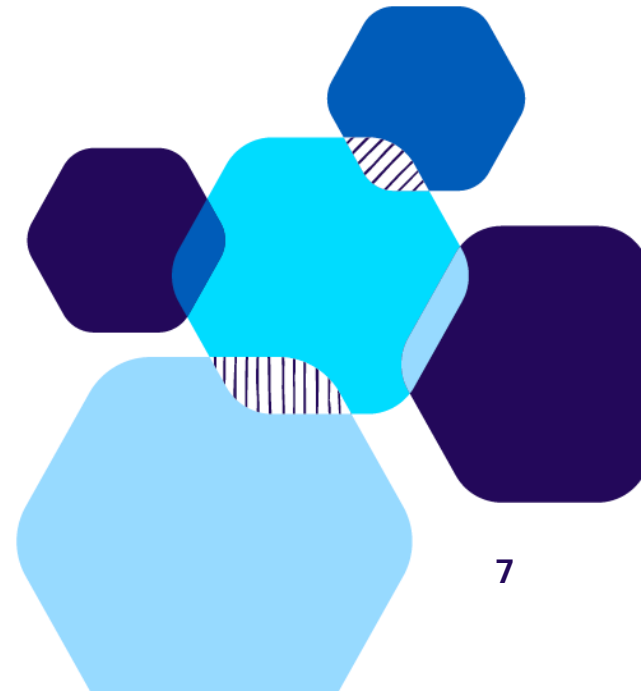
Please write your ideas in the chat

We need child protection laws to prevent abuse

What are the four main types of child abuse?

Please write in the chat

Quick quiz:

1/ Punishment

2/ Beating

3/ Physical abuse

4/ Mental abuse

5/ Withholding money

6/ Emotional abuse

7/ Sexual abuse

8/ Neglect

9/ Too much homework

10/ Restricting food

Which of these are the 4 main categories of child abuse?

1/ Punishment

2/ Beating

3/ **Physical abuse**

4/ **Mental abuse**

5/ **Withholding money**

6/ **Emotional abuse**

7/ **Sexual abuse**

8/ **Neglect**

9/ **Too much homework**

10/ **Restricting food**

Can other forms of abuse be included in these 4?
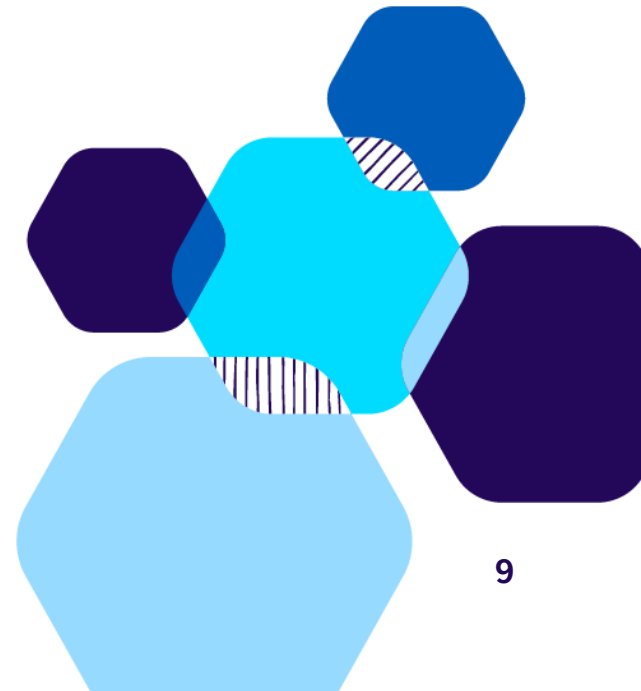
What do these types of abuse consist of?
Match the number to the letters below:

1. Making a child feel frightened or in danger

2. Showing a child pornography

3. Not meeting the child's physical or psychological needs

4. Shaking a child

5. Deliberately making a child feel worthless

6. Deliberately making a child ill

7. Encouraging a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways

8. Inadequate supervision which leaves a child in a dangerous situation

a) **Physical abuse**

b) **Emotional abuse**

c) **Sexual abuse**

d) **Neglect**
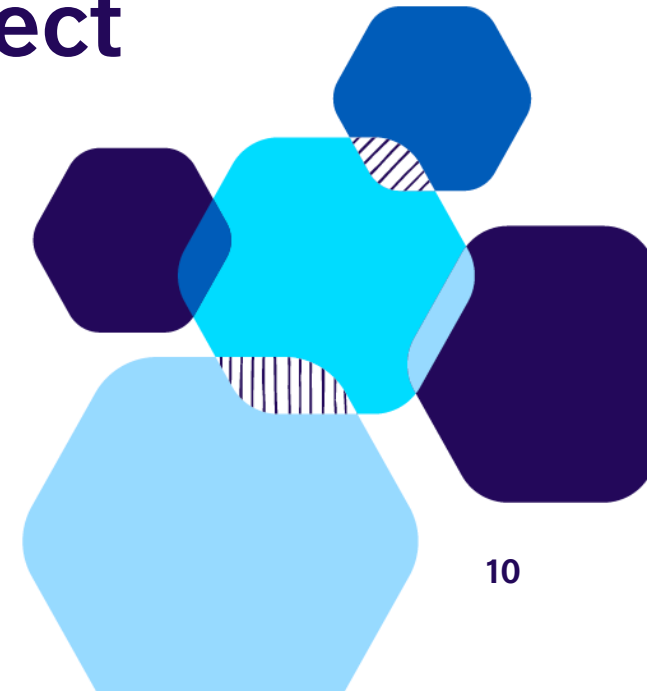
KEY:

1. Making a child feel frightened or in danger

2. Showing a child pornography

3. Not meeting the child's physical or psychological needs

4. Shaking a child

5. Deliberately making a child feel worthless

6. Deliberately making a child ill

7. Encouraging a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways

8. Inadequate supervision which leaves a child in a dangerous situation

a) **Physical abuse 4,6**
b) **Emotional abuse 1,5**
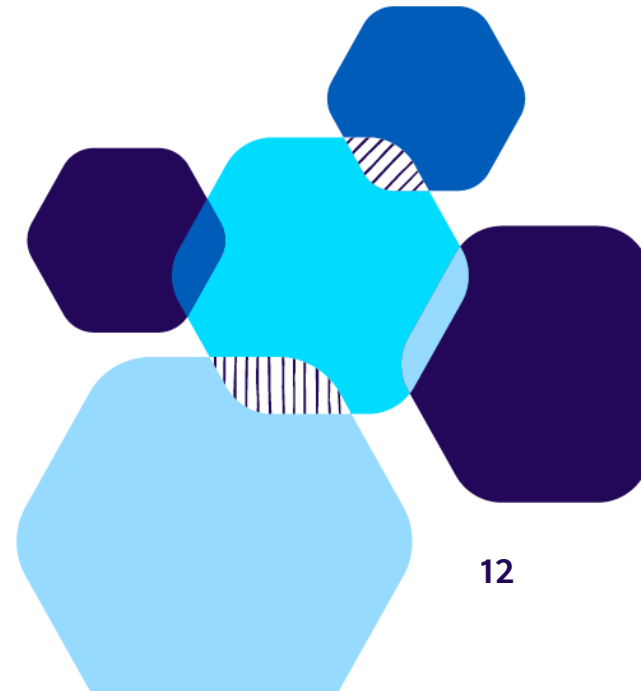c) **Sexual abuse 2,7**
d) **Neglect 3,8**

How can we tell if a child is suffering from abuse?

And what can we do about it?

# Do you have ideas? – please write in the chat

Examples from my context:

1. Beating/ Caning as a form of discipline

2. Verbal abuse/ Derogatory remarks

3. Shaming students for poor performance

4. Exploitation for grade, favour or money

5. Lack of Supervision

6. Physical Bullying

7. Segregation

8. Unequal Treatment

Quiz 2: what could these be signs of?:

1. Acts either inappropriately adult (taking care of other children) or inappropriately infantile (rocking, thumb-sucking, tantrums)

2. Injuries appear to have a pattern, such as marks from a hand or belt

3. Displays knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to their age

4. Is frequently late or missing from school

   Are these always signs of abuse?

a) **Physical abuse**

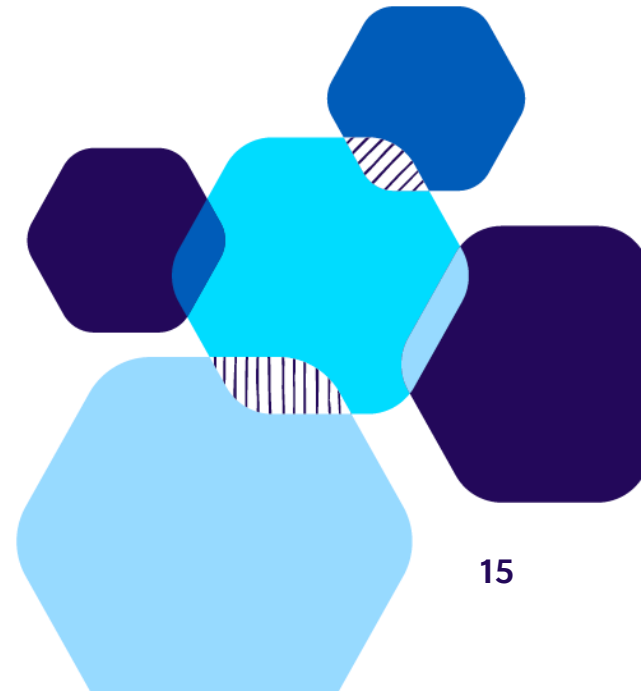b) **Emotional abuse**

c) **Sexual abuse**

d) **Neglect**
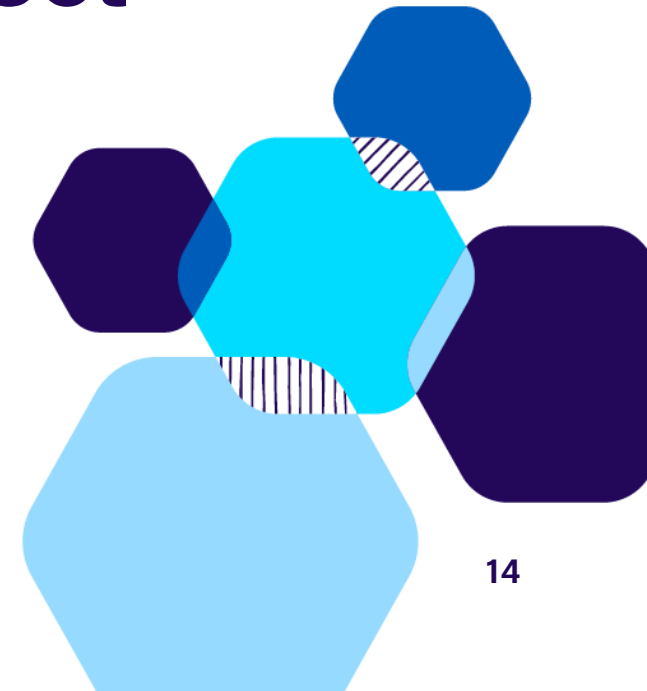
What can we do if a child comes to us for help?

'Disclosure'

- Can be shocking

- Takes a lot of courage (maybe the child has been threatened not to tell anyone)
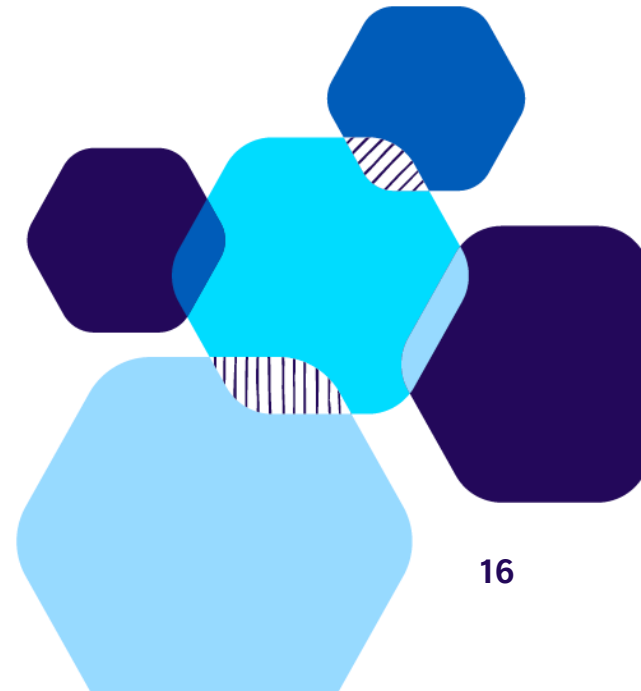
- Remain calm and show support

A useful framework for dealing with disclosure:
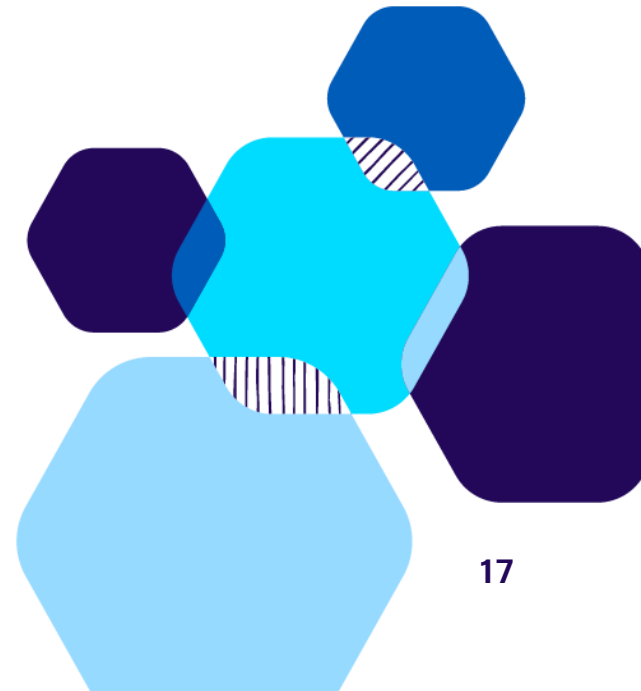
Receive

Reassure

React

Record

Who else can help?

- In your school / college / university, is there anyone responsible for child protection?

- Could you ask for someone to be responsible for child protection?

- Can your school director help?

- Can other teachers help?

- Are there any organisations that can help?

Please add your ideas in the chat

A new need: child / teen protection online

- **From teaching online during Covid**
- **Identity theft**
- **Inappropriate sharing**
- **Grooming and abuse**
- **Privacy and permissions**

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-and-events/world-teachers-day/2020/how-build-secure-online-environment-protect-young-learners

A new British Council English Connects course on safeguarding:

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training/safeguarding-learners-online

Enrol now!

Free workbook:

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/2024-05/Workbook_for_Safeguarding_learners_online.pdf

Safeguarding learners online

Make your classroom a safe space for online learning. Help your learners to feel confident, be successful and recognise when they may need help. Access 'Safeguarding learners online' from 4 June 2024 - enrol now.

Staff Responsibilities in Child Protection. NEVER:

1. hit or physically assault or abuse children

2. act in ways meant to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade children

3. show differential treatment, or favour particular children to the exclusion of others

4. use language or make suggestions which are inappropriate, offensive or abusive

5. spend excessive time alone with children away from others

6. develop relationships with children which could be seen as exploitative or abusive

7. expose children to pornographic materials in electronic or any other form

8. permit children to take part in activities that are illegal, unsafe or abusive

9. take or condone the taking of alcohol/illegal drugs whilst or before working with children

Staff Responsibilities in Child Protection. NEVER:

10. sleep in the same room as a child if this hasn't been agreed by the parent or guardian

11. invite, or allow, a child you've met through work into your home

12. offer to transport a child alone in a car

13. enter a child's private home unless there's a responsible adult present

14. use personal email accounts, social networking sites, mobile phones or other means of communication to contact children. Always use work email accounts and copy in parents when sending out any communication

15. let allegations go unreported, including any made against them

16. agree to keep any information relating to the abuse of a child confidential. You should always follow the procedures for reporting concerns.
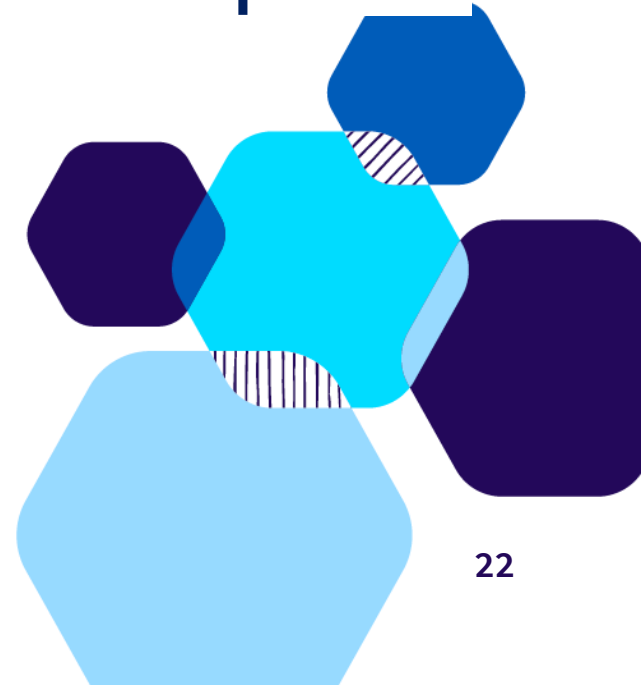
Let's turn to positive solutions – what can we as teachers do to help?

Educate learners about personal safety, boundaries, and how to recognize and report abuse

How?

Read about positive steps some teachers are taking: IATEFL Global Issues Special Interest Group (GISIG) publications

Projects across sub-Saharan Africa: https://gisig.iatefl.org/publications/

- Break the Silence Africa (BSA) – empowering girls to say no – Patricia Benuyenah, Ghana

- Posters, role-plays - Martha Ezeliya Phiri, Zambia

- Breaking taboos with menstruation – Catherine Njau, Tanzania

- Sexual health – Anestin Chi in Cameroon

- Research into FGM, teenage pregnancy, child

labour and early marriage – teachers in Guinea Bissau

What else can we do?

Celebrations / campaigns? eg.

**International Day of the African Child – 16th June**
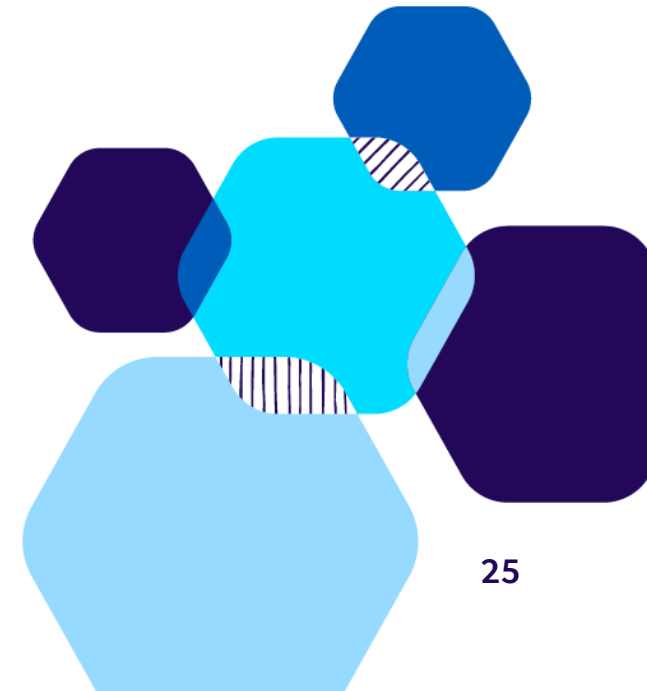
Child Protection week – South Africa – May / June

Learn from and link up with international charities:
- ECPAT (Every Child Protected against Trafficking): https://www.ecpat.org.uk/
- The No Project: https://www.thenoproject.org/

Suggestions:

1. Education and Awareness – teachers and schools

2. Legislation and Policy – put pressure on governments

3. Improve Access to Education – distance from schools, gender equity etc

4. Healthcare and Nutrition – can schools help?

5. Child Protection Services – if they exist

6. Community Engagement – involve everyone

7. Poverty Alleviation – address root causes

8. Capacity Building – train social workers and healthcare staff

9. Data Collection and Research – to understand the problems

10. International Collaboration – governments, NGOs etc
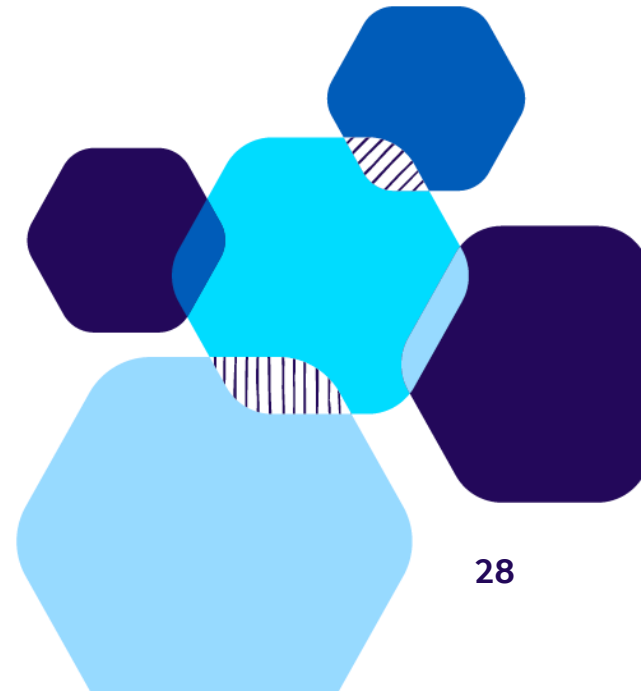
Safeguarding Measures

Definition:

- Safeguarding is a term used to denote measures to protect the health, well-being and human rights of individuals, especially children and vulnerable adults.

- A child is defined as anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday irrespective of the age of majority in the country where the child is, or their home country.

- A vulnerable adult is defined as a person over 18, who for any reason may be unable to take care or protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

Safeguarding Measures

The British Council is committed to:

- valuing, respecting, and listening to children and adults;
- maintaining strong protection systems and procedure.
- sharing safeguarding best practice and information regarding safeguarding concerns with relevant parties
- actively investigating suspected abuse.

The British Council has a zero-tolerance approach to safeguarding. Safeguarding is everyone's business.

Safeguarding Measures

Our Policy considers two levels of intervention:

- PREVENTATIVE – to reduce the likelihood of a child or an adult being harmed or abused.

- RESPONSIVE – taking actions to ensure where concerns are raised or situations of suspected harm or abuse are identified, appropriate steps are taken to ensure the child, or an adult is supported. And to prevent or reduce the likelihood of similar situations reoccurring

Safeguarding Measures

Safeguarding resources:

Safeguarding global policy:

https://www.britishcouncil.org.ng/programmes/society/safeguarding-policy

E-safety:

How to keep you learners safe online:

Keeping your learners safe online | TeachingEnglish | British Council

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/Online-safety.pdf

https://www.britishcouncil.org.np/how-help-young-learners-stay-safe-internet

Thank you

Any questions?