

## **Domestic Abuse and Parental Conflict**

Although not directly causing abuse to the child, abuse and conflict in the home is known to have negative impacts on the child and so the below are also important parts of us ensuring the safety and welfare of all of our students under our safeguarding culture. The definitions of these are below:



### **Domestic abuse**

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, 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. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional. Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

### **Parental conflict**

Parental conflict can range from a lack of warmth and emotional distance, right through to swearing and shouting and is well known to be a risk factor for poor child outcomes, particularly when conflict is frequent, intense and poorly resolved. There is growing understanding and awareness of the need to address and reduce parental conflict that sits below a domestic abuse/violence threshold. Inter-parental conflict in turn has an impact on child outcomes and increasingly, parental conflict is seen as the central mechanism of, or a pre-cursor to, poor parenting and poor child outcomes.