

Statement on Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges. Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure their child protection policy reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include:-

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further explanation;'
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers