Relationship Abuse

Early Years
Martin is four. He has two older sisters who attend the local High School. He is always chatty and very creative when playing with things; he particularly enjoys role play.

Today he is with another couple of children and they are clearly role playing. He can be heard to say that he is JJ. The small group seem to be getting on really well together. One of the girls yells out and then comes over to you crying. She says that Martin has hit her and called her a bad name.

On speaking to him Martin says he is sorry. When asked why he has done it he says it’s what JJ does to Lauren (you are aware that Lauren is Martin’s 14 year old sister). You ask if Mummy and Daddy know and Martin says that Lauren told him not to say anything. He then says that he doesn’t like it when she cries.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record the incident, and if so where?
- What actions would you take in the longer term?
- If you felt that you needed to take further advice who would you speak to?

The child who was injured will need reassurance and support.

You have some information but do not know what is fact and what is not. You will need to speak to the parents. Depending on the outcome you may need to consider speaking to ChECS. Even though Lauren is not in your setting she is a child and needs protection. You have the information so you need to make the right things happen, even if someone else refers it through.

Further advice is available through: Cheshire East Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership
Primary:
Martin is ten. He has two older sisters who attend the local High School. He works well in class and gets on positively with his peers.

Today he is playing football at break with a group of peers. One of the girls who is playing deliberately kicks the ball across the field. Before you can intervene Martin slaps her across the face and calls her a b**ch.

On speaking to Martin once he has calmed down he is very reluctant to speak. He says that he didn’t mean it, he lashed out without thinking. You tell him that it is never the right thing to do and that his language is inappropriate. He says “well that’s what JJ does.” You ask who JJ is and he shrugs. You ask who JJ does it to and he says “Lauren” (you are aware that Lauren is Martin’s 14 year old sister). You ask if his Mum and Dad know; Martin says no because Lauren told him not to say anything. He then says that he doesn’t like it when she cries. He then refuses to say any more.

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record the incident, and if so where?
- What actions would you take in the longer term?

The young person who was slapped will need reassurance/ support.

You have some information but do not know what is fact and what is not. You will need to speak to the parents. Depending on the outcome you may need to consider speaking to ChECS. Even though Lauren is not in your setting she is a child and needs protection. You have the information so you need to make the right things happen, even if someone else refers it through.
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Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub call - 0300 123 5101

Secondary and College:

Lauren is fourteen. She has a younger brother and an older sister. You have noticed a change in her recently; from being outgoing with a wide circle of friends she has been spending most of her time with JJ, she has stopped wearing any make up and is much quieter.

JJ is seventeen, almost eighteen and she is in the sixth form. She doesn’t socialise with her peers during free periods she can often be found hanging around Lauren’s classes and spends every break and lunch with her.

Looking out of the window at the end of the day today you see JJ slap Lauren and hear her call Lauren a “dumb b**ch.”

- What would you do immediately?
- Would you record the incident, and if so where?
- What actions should be taken in the longer term?

You will need to speak to Lauren about what you have seen and her parents. Depending on the outcome you may need to consider speaking to ChECS.

Give Lauren information about sources of support so that she is able to access information; and signpost the parents.

Keep asking the question over time “are you ok” so that, when Lauren is in the right place to access support she is able to, and so she knows that she is not alone.

Consider putting a risk management plan in place. Look at JJ’s needs; what support does she need so that she doesn’t behave in this way.

Ensure that students have a good understanding of positive relationships and what constitutes abuse so that they know where they can turn to for support if this is happening to them, if they are
treating someone in an abusive way or if they recognise these signs in others.

**Further advice is available through:** [Cheshire East Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership](#)

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