



Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School

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Headteacher - Mrs L Wybar BA(Hons) MA

Tuesday 2 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As part of our work with pupils regarding sexual harassment and assault I have been asked by a group of pupils to prepare the attached, a guide to how they could help a friend who has been assaulted or information should they ever experience it. I have worked closely with the pupils regarding the issue of consent also and this is the second part of the document.

I sincerely hope that this document is never needed but it was suggested to me by pupils that it may be beneficial for it to also be sent to parents to save.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other pastoral matter please do contact me at the school

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Marchant', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Katie Marchant
Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral
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SUPPORT FOLLOWING AN ASSAULT

Remember - it is NEVER your fault

How do you support someone who has been assaulted?

For relatives and friends of someone who has been sexually assaulted, [The Havens Website](#) has advice on what you can do to help. The advice includes:

- Don't judge them; don't blame them. A sexual assault is **never** the fault of the person who is abused.
- Listen to the person, but don't ask for details of the assault. Don't ask them why they didn't stop it. This can make them feel as though you blame them.
- Offer practical support, such as going with them to appointments.
- Respect their decisions – for example, whether or not they want to report the assault to the police.
- Bear in mind they might not want to be touched. Even a hug might upset them, so ask first. If you're in a sexual relationship with them, be aware that sex might be frightening, and don't put pressure on them to have sex.
- Don't tell them to forget about the assault. It will take time for them to deal with their feelings and emotions. You can help by listening and being patient.

If you have been assaulted:

If you've been sexually assaulted, there are services that can help. You don't have to report the assault to police if you don't want to. You may need time to think about what has happened to you. However, consider getting medical help as soon as possible, because you may be at risk of pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections (STIs). If you want the crime to be investigated, the sooner a forensic medical examination takes place, the better.

Try not to wash or change your clothes immediately after a sexual assault. This may destroy forensic evidence that could be important if you decide to report the assault to the police.

You can report it to school if you would like support - bob@twggs.kent.sch.uk and we will work with you in whatever way you choose.

Our closest Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is in Maidstone, [Beech House Sexual Assault Referral Centre](#) and you can self refer between 8am-8pm, it is open 24 hours a day. Sexual assault referral centres offer medical, practical and emotional support to anyone who has been sexually assaulted or raped. They have specially trained paediatricians / Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNE) and support workers to care for you. Beech House SARC offers a comprehensive service for adults and children in Kent and Medway, who have experienced sexual violence or sexual abuse. Individuals will be offered support and guidance as well as medical assessments, treatment, a forensic examination, and the opportunity of aftercare referrals for support services. Clients will be offered these services in a non-judgmental manner and based on their individual needs.

Are they the legal age of consent?

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Yes. | Yes, but they are in my care. | No, they're younger. |
| ↓ Yes, you have consent! | You do not have their consent. | |

Do they have the capacity to consent?

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| Yes, they are sober and alert. | Yes, they are high but are fully aware of the situation. | Yes, they have been drinking but are not intoxicated. | No, they are confused and incapacitated. | No, they are high and unaware of the situation. | No, they have been drinking and are intoxicated. |
| ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | You do not have their consent. | | |
| Yes, you have consent! | | | | | |

Was their consent freely given?

| | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Yes, you have consent! | No, you do not have consent. |
| Yes, they gave consent and boundaries were not crossed. | ✓ | |
| Yes, but I crossed boundaries. | | ✗ |
| Yes, but not for the specific thing I plan to do. | | ✗ |
| Yes, but they said what I was doing hurt. | | ✗ |
| Yes, but then they asked me to stop doing something. | | ✗ |
| Yes, but I held them down with force in a position they didn't agree to. | | ✗ |
| Yes, but they agreed to use a condom and I didn't want to. | | ✗ |
| Yes, but they changed their mind. | | ✗ |
| No, they never gave consent. | | ✗ |
| No, but we're friends. | | ✗ |
| No, but we're in a relationship. | | ✗ |
| No, they didn't say no though. | | ✗ |
| No, but I kept asking so eventually they said yes. | | ✗ |