

Sexual Harassment

Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges



What is the national picture?

Ofsted conducted a review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges which was published in June 2021

Nationally collected statistics show that there has been a sharp increase in reporting of child sexual abuse to the police in recent years. Figures that include all child sexual abuse cases show that the police recorded over 83,000 child sexual abuse offences (including obscene publications) in the year ending March 2020. This is an increase of approximately 267% since 2013. Research estimates indicate that approximately one quarter of cases of all child sexual abuse involve a perpetrator under the age of 18

Although anyone can experience sexual harassment and violence, research indicates that girls are disproportionately affected. For example, 90% of recorded offences of rape in 2018–19 of 13- to 15-year-olds were committed against girls. In the past year, girls aged between 15 and 17 reported the highest annual rates of sexual abuse for young people and children aged 25 and younger

In 2016, the Women and Equalities Select Committee highlighted a number of surveys reporting that girls were experiencing high levels of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, in schools and colleges

Findings from the report

The girls who responded to our questionnaire indicated that, in order of prevalence, the following types of harmful sexual behaviours happened 'a lot' or 'sometimes' between people their age:

Non-contact forms, but face-to-face:

- sexist name-calling (92%)
- rumours about their sexual activity (81%)
- unwanted or inappropriate comments of a sexual nature (80%)

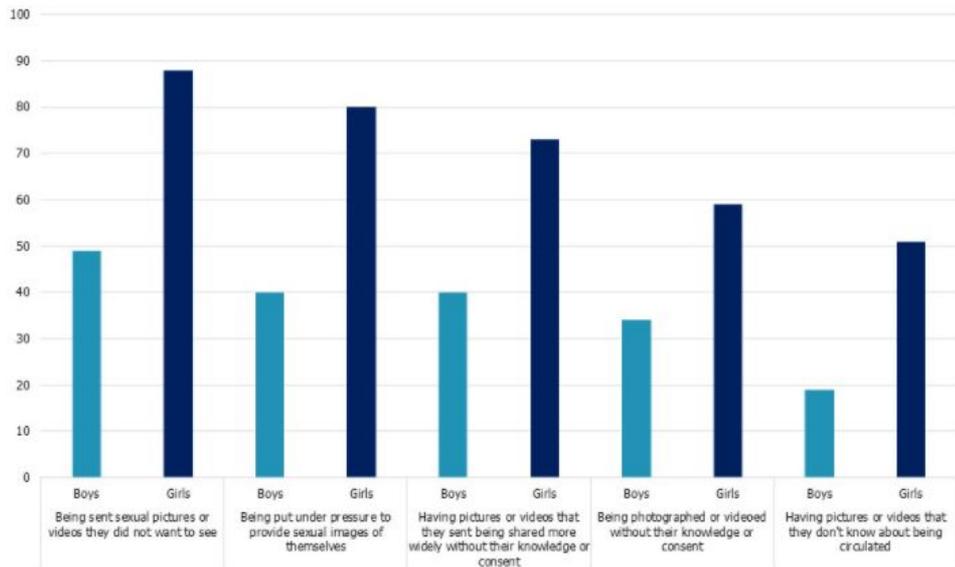
Non-contact forms, online or on social media:

- being sent pictures or videos they did not want to see (88%)
- being put under pressure to provide sexual images of themselves (80%)
- having pictures or videos that they sent being shared more widely without their knowledge or consent (73%)
- being photographed or videoed without their knowledge or consent (59%)
- having pictures or videos of themselves that they did not know about being circulated (51%)

Contact forms:

- sexual assault of any kind (79%)
- feeling pressured to do sexual things that they did not want to (68%)
- unwanted touching (64%)

These findings are strongly supported by existing research into harmful sexual behaviour between peers. [\[footnote 22\]](#), [\[footnote 23\]](#)



	Boys	Girls
Being sent sexual pictures or videos they did not want to see	49	88
Being put under pressure to provide sexual images of themselves	40	80
Having pictures or videos that they sent being shared more widely without their knowledge or consent	40	73
Being photographed or videoed without their knowledge or consent	34	59
Having pictures or videos that they don't know about being circulated	19	51

Not many children and young people spoke about sexual abuse in relationships, although in one school they mentioned that incidents sometimes occurred between peers in established relationships, where 'things go too far' or 'go over the line'. Some children and young people also talked about wanting to know more about issues around consent in established relationships. Textual analysis of the publicly available testimonies on the Everyone's Invited website indicates that, where a relationship to the perpetrator is named, around two thirds of the testimonies say that the perpetrator was known to them and around a fifth was a boyfriend.^[footnote 37] Evidence suggests that early experience of dating and relationship violence is associated with subsequent adverse outcomes, such as suicidal behaviours, other mental health problems and low educational attainment.^[footnote 38]

We are increasingly seeing reports in pastoral of this sort of behaviour and our pupils are unclear on the boundaries of the law and what constitutes assault

Girls talked about feeling uncomfortable because of behaviour from peers on bus journeys (including school buses), where they said they experienced the kind of sexual harassment and bullying behaviour that happened in school. Girls in one school, for example, said that boys often made 'rape jokes' on the school bus. More widely, some children and young people said they did not feel safe from strangers on trains or in parks, alleys, car parks and side streets. Some girls in particular said that feeling unsafe in these situations was pervasive. One girl said that a man had deliberately brushed her younger sister's leg recently and another girl had told her sister to get used to it as 'this is what happens'. Younger girls aged 12 to 13 in another school said that they felt uncomfortable walking through town in their uniforms. Evidence from other research also indicates that this is an issue. A recent survey of girls and young women aged 13 to 21 found that more than half have felt unsafe walking home alone and had experienced harassment or know someone who has, and nearly half feel unsafe using public transport. [\[footnote 39\]](#)

What are we doing at TWGGS?

We have set up a working party with our Head Girl Team and the Head Boy Team at Skinners who are meeting monthly to discuss issues for both schools and work collaboratively on ideas to combat sexual harassment and peer on peer abuse

We have a Skinners Charter which has been proposed [Skinners Charter](#) which details where pupils can go for support and help and this will go to all of KS5 following the sexual harassment assembly on 19 October

We have drawn up a TWGGS Sexual Harassment Charter [TWGGS Sexual Harassment Charter September 2021](#) which will go to all KS4 & KS5 pupils following their assemblies

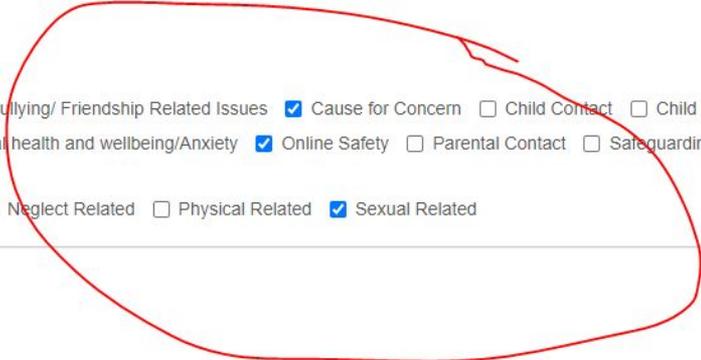
We have a Police Liaison Officer who works closely with us and has already assisted in several cases being brought to the police. She is a regular visitor to TWGGS now and we are hoping to 'normalise' her presence

PSHE sessions have been planned with consent, personal safety, pornography, online and mental wellbeing sessions allocated to Years 10, 11, L6 & U6; PSHE really is vitally important and should not be missed by a pupil or given over to anything that does not constitute our pupils learning how to navigate the world around them

'It could happen here'

This is the mentality that we all need to adopt. Our pupils are increasingly at risk of both sexual harassment and peer on peer abuse and we need to carefully monitor them

If you are concerned in any way then please report your concerns through CPOMS - using the tag below of either 'sexual related' or 'online safety'

- Attainment
 - Attendance
 - Behaviour Related Log
 - Bullying/ Friendship Related Issues
 - Cause for Concern
 - Child Contact
 - Child Protection
 - Communication
 - Contact with External Agency
 - Home Issues/ Parenting Issues
 - Medical Issues
 - Mental health and wellbeing/Anxiety
 - Online Safety
 - Parental Contact
 - Safeguarding
 - SEND
 - Uniform Related Log
 - Verbal & Aggressive Incidents
- Cause for Concern Subcategories**
- Domestic Violence
 - Emotional Related
 - Grooming
 - Neglect Related
 - Physical Related
 - Sexual Related
- 

If a pupil discloses to you - you should

Listen – stay calm



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graph TD; A[Listen – stay calm] --> B[Do not promise confidentiality]; B --> C[Seek clarity – with caution (TED)]; C --> D[Record using child's own words]; D --> E[Inform DSL];
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Seek clarity – with caution (TED)

Record using child's own words

Inform DSL