

## **Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools September 2021**

**Here at TWGGS we have a zero tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment and it is never acceptable, will not be tolerated and will not be passed off.**

We have systems in place for our TWGGS pupils to confidently report abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and that they can safely express their views and give feedback.

We have a Police Liaison Officer who works with us who can assist and advise with any criminal proceedings. We are working closely with local schools to ensure that this message is upheld in our area. **If you wish to speak about any incident that has occurred with someone from a local school you must report it to your 'home school' via the correct channels (either your form tutor, DoA or a DSL).** Communication regarding pupils in local schools will occur at headteacher and DSL level.

We have dedicated members of staff who are Designated Safeguarding Leads to ensure that you are safe at all times. They are:

Mrs Marchant  
Mrs Wybar  
Mrs Waddington  
Mr Smith  
Mrs Ralph

Pupils can report incidences of sexual violence and sexual assault either in person or through the dedicated email address [bob@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:bob@twggs.kent.sch.uk) which is monitored by Mrs Marchant.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex from primary through to secondary stage and into colleges. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. As set out in Part one of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 (KCSIE), all staff working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of **'it could happen here'**.

**The following information is taken from Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2021) and Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between Children in Schools and Colleges (September 2021) and the purpose of this document is to inform and support you.**

### **Sexual harassment**

This is **'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature'** that can occur online and offline and both inside and outside of school/college. When we reference sexual harassment, we do so in the context of child on child sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is likely to: violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment. Whilst not intended to be an exhaustive list, sexual harassment can include:

- sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names;

- sexual “jokes” or taunting;
- physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone, interfering with someone’s clothes and displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature;

**Online sexual harassment.** This may be standalone, or part of a wider pattern of sexual harassment and/or sexual violence. It may include:

- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos taking and sharing nude photographs of U18s is a criminal offence;
- sharing of unwanted explicit content;
- upskirting (is a criminal offence);
- sexualised online bullying;
- unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media;
- sexual exploitation; coercion and threats

**What is consent?** Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g. to vaginal but not anal sex, or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs. Someone consents to vaginal, anal or oral penetration only if s/he agrees by choice to that penetration and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice.

- a child under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity;
- the age of consent is 16;
- sexual intercourse without consent is rape.

It is important that all are aware of **sexual violence** and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way and that it can happen both inside and outside of school/college. When referring to sexual violence in this advice, we do so in the context of child on child sexual violence. When referring to sexual violence we are referring to sexual offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as described below:

- Rape: A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- Assault by Penetration: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- Sexual Assault: A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents. (Schools should be aware that sexual assault covers a very wide range of behaviour so a single act of kissing someone without consent or touching someone’s bottom/breasts/genitalia without consent, can still constitute sexual assault.)
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally causes another person (B) to engage in an activity, the activity is sexual, B does not consent to engaging in the activity, and A does