# Safeguarding Newsletter

**Term 2 2021**

**What is Sexual Harassment?**

Sexual harassment in general is any unwanted sexual attention online and offline that can cause physical, emotional/mental, psychological or economic harm to the victim.

**Can this happen in Primary School?**

Research suggests that more than a third of sexual abuse reported by any age children is perpetrated by their peers (Peer on Peer Sexual Abuse) - with girls being the victim in the majority of cases. Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any sex. They can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. It is important that we teach all children (boys and girls), of all ages, what is acceptable interaction and what is not, and then what they must do if any unwanted sexual attention happens to them.

**What can we do to teach children appropriate interaction?**

Boys and girls mix together in every social environment, at every age and many children will never experience sexism, harassment or abuse based on gender. To ensure that our youngest children know how to keep themselves safe we must encourage an open honesty about their experiences so that they know it is always safe to disclose to a trusted adult. Parents and staff should make sure they model the best ways of showing respect between the genders and challenge any attempt by family members, friends, other parents and organisations to undermine that work

**What do we do at Huntingdon Academy?**

At Huntingdon Academy, we encourage children to be open about their experiences so that they know it is always safe to disclose concerns to a trusted adult. We aim to create an environment that teaches boys and girls how to behave respectfully towards each other, and how to respect personal and physical boundaries.

**Sexual Harassment in schools**

Recently, OFSTED completed its investigation into sexual harassment in schools and colleges—a large scale review of safeguarding in respect of this one issue. After speaking to over 900 pupils, it became clear to OFSTED that there is a significant issue with sexual harassment in education and the associated gender violence consequences. Here is the link to OFSTED’s report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexualharassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges>

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**6 tips to help you challenge it in the moment**

* 1. Challenge it there and then. It’s important to do this to send a clear message that the comment or behaviour isn’t acceptable. Don’t dismiss or downplay an incident
  2. Challenge the behaviour, not the person. This depersonalises the challenge. For example, “That is sexist language” is a more helpful comment than “You’re sexist”
  3. Explain what the problem is. This gives a reason for your challenge and helps children see why their comment or behaviour is a problem.
  4. Support the victim and show empathy. Let them know it’s not their fault. Consider the incident from their perspective and encourage others to do the same
  5. Challenge gender bias and stereotypes. And be aware of your own biases too.
  6. Focus on the perpetrator’s behaviour rather than the victim’s. This moves us away from seeing sexual harassment and violence as ‘inevitable’ and something girls should adapt their behaviour to avoid.

**Relationship and Sex Education**

**Through our RSE - Relationship and Sex Education, we ensure the children develop an age appropriate awareness of this theme, including understanding how to show respect to themselves and others. If children understand their own bodies, the terminology to use and why certain words are not appropriate, they will speak more knowledgably and respectfully to each other.**

**Please remember that small behaviours feed into a bigger problem**

**Useful phone numbers**

Children and Families Direct: 0115 876 4800

ChildLine: 0800 1111

Nottingham Prevent Team: call 101 ext. 800 2963/2965 or ask to speak to the Prevent Team.

Carers Federation, Action for Young Carers project:

0115 962 9351

NSPCC whistle blowing helpline: 0800 028 0285

FGM helpline: 08000 283550

Samaritans: 0115 941 1111

**Who can help?**

Every school has a ‘Designated Safeguarding Lead’. At Huntingdon Academy, this is Miss Yarnell, Mr Middleton and Mrs Want or Mrs Riley.

Our Safeguarding governor is Mrs Ros Murphy.

If you have any concerns in relation to safeguarding, please feel free to speak to a member of our team.