

## 01 What is sexual violence and sexual harassment between children?

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

## 02 Why it matters?

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support.

## 07 What to do

Schools and colleges have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children at their school/college.

There may be a need to discuss your concerns with children's social care: Blackpool dial 01253 477299 or Lancashire 0300 123 6720. In an emergency always dial 999.



## 03 What schools should do?

Making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up; not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "part of growing up", "just having a laugh" or "boys being boys"; challenging behaviour (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia and flicking bras and lifting up skirts.

## 06 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 Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs.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.

## 05 Consent

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.

Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them; and understanding that all of the above can be driven by wider societal factors beyond school such as everyday sexist stereotypes and everyday sexist language.

## 04 Sexual violence

It is important that schools are aware of sexual violence and the fact children can, and sometimes do, abuse their peers in this way. When referring to sexual violence, this can mean: rape; assault by penetration; and sexual assault.