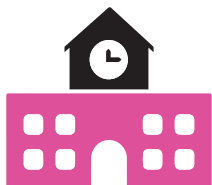


Services For Education

SEXUAL VIOLENCE & SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It can, it will and it does happen



At School



At Home



Online



In the community

What are Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment?

Sexual Violence includes acts such as

- rape
- assault by penetration
- sexual assault

Sexual violence does not always happen in a 'violent' way and can happen through coercion, grooming or within a relationship.

Sexual Harassment can include:

- sexual comments and remarks
- sexualised language and jokes
- online sexual harassment
- sending or receiving inappropriate images
- upskirting

**Both are serious, can have significant impact and should be dealt with according to your school's policy*

What are the signs of peer-on-peer sexual violence & sexual harassment?

Some children will show multiples signs they are being abused, others won't show any at all. It is essential that staff are aware of what to look out for, which can include but is not limited to.

Sexualised behaviour inappropriate for their age and developmental stage	Displaying sexualised behaviour towards others
Unexplained absences	Alcohol or substance misuse
Changes in demeanour, behaviours or attitudes	Physical injuries
Being afraid of, or avoiding, a particular person or group	Anxiety or depression
Self-harm or eating disorders	Flinching or moving away from physical touch or perceived harm
Emotional distress	Secretive behaviour or alluding to secrets

**Some of these signs may show other types of abuse, so use of professional curiosity is key when trying to understand a child's lived experience.*

Questions to ask in your setting:

- Why might our children not share occurrences of SV & SH?
- Where in our setting might this happen?
- What support do we have in place for those who have been harmed? And alleged perpetrators?
- Where does our PSHE & RSE teach children about safe relationships?
- Is inappropriate behaviour always challenged? If not, why not?
- What would your children say about your setting's approach to Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment?
- How can you minimise the risk of it happening in your setting?

What to do next?

- **Ask** - use your professional curiosity to find out what is going on.
- **Listen, be open and honest** - reassure the victim that they've done the right thing by sharing.
- **Record and report** - follow your setting's safeguarding procedures and alert your DSL.
- **Never promise confidentiality** - let the child know you have to share in order to keep them safe.