

# HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

## 1 WHAT IS HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR?

Harmful Sexual Behaviour, or HSB, is a term used to describe a continuum of sexual behaviours which range from inappropriate to problematic to abusive. Whilst a level of healthy exploration is very normal in adolescence, some behaviours exist outside of this range and can be dangerous, this is where we begin to discuss the behaviour as 'harmful'.

Early teens is the most common time for HSB to occur, with the majority of offences taking place online. Statistically, perpetrators of HSB are more often boys, but this is variable. In general, where HSB occurs in girls, it is often identified earlier.

HSB, and sexual violence or harassment, can occur between young people of any age or sex, and is more common than many would think, with 37% of girls and 6% of boys reporting that they have personally experienced some form of sexual harassment in school (UK FEMINISTA 2017)



## 2 KNOW THE FACTS

- It is more common for the victims of sexual violence between young people to be girls, but this is not exclusive.
- Most perpetrators of problematic or abusive HSB have been victims of some form of trauma or maltreatment.
- HSB frequently goes unreported, with victims feeling ashamed or stigmatised.
- Perpetrators of HSB often have low self esteem, poor social skills and experience challenges with their mental health.
- Victims of HSB often suffer challenges to their mental health and wellbeing, academic attainment and social development as a result.
- Most children and young people who display HSB do not go on to sexually offend as adults.
- HSB is increasingly perpetrated online, particularly with ever increasing access to pornography of a range of extremity.
- HSB covers a broad spectrum, ranging from telling inappropriate 'jokes' or 'banter', sharing images (intimate or not) to touching and penetrative sex.

## SPOT THE SIGNS 3

- Young people may be unusually secretive about what they are viewing online.
- Young people may use language or tell 'jokes' inappropriate to their age.
- Lack of awareness of boundaries and consent. This can be around things such as sharing images of others, even if not indecent.
- Behaviour using force, aggression or pressure.
- Sexual interest in adults or children of a very different age to themselves.
- Sending or receiving inappropriate images.
- Sexual behaviour that becomes impulsive or happens very frequently.
- Sexual behaviour that effects their school work, relationships or social life.
- Engaging in sexual behaviour, conversations or actions that upset others.

## 4 WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR?

- Report your concern on CPOMS
- If you have questions, or you're not sure whether to be worried or not, speak directly to Steve Ive (DSL) or Ella Ferguson (DDSL) before you leave site.

**For further information, please see overleaf for information of Harmful Sexual Behaviour and links to some useful sites and videos.**

## FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

[Understanding Sexual Behaviour in Children | NSPCC](#)

[Harmful Sexual Behaviour \(HSB\) - KSCP \(kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](#)

[2018-11-05-Key-messages-from-research.pdf \(kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](#)

[How can CEOP help me? | young person](#)

[Preventing harmful sexual behaviour in children - Stop It Now](#)

## REMEMBER THAT LOTS OF PREVENTATIVE WORK GOES INTO THIS THROUGH OUR PSHE CURRICULUM.

If you have questions or queries about Wellsway's PSHE work, you can email Emily Jones  
emjones@wellswayschool.com

## UK FEMINISTA 2017 REPORT: 'IT'S JUST EVERYWHERE—A STUDY ON SEXISM IN SCHOOLS':

[Report-Its-just-everywhere.pdf \(ukfeminista.org.uk\)](#)

## HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR CONTINUUM:

