

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is classified as unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, this can include online sexual harassment.

Online Sexual Harassment

Online sexual harassment refers to a range of behaviours where digital technologies are used to facilitate both virtual and face-to-face sexually based harms. Online sexual harassment encompasses a wide range of behaviours that use digital content (images, videos, posts, messages, pages) on a variety of different platforms (private or public).

Research conducted identified that 26% of 13-17 year olds have had rumours about their sexual behaviour shared online, with 65% saying girls are judged more harshly than boys. 47% of 13-17 year olds have witnessed peers editing photos of someone to make them sexual (e.g. placing sexual emojis over them or adding different faces to pornographic images) and 31% of 13-17 year olds have seen peers create fake profiles of someone they know to share sexual images, comments or messages (Childnet).

Resources

At Maiden Erlegh School in Reading we wanted to share resources with you to aid in discussions and supporting your children at home around these topics. If your child is experiencing this we would ask that you inform us so that we can investigate further and look to put support in place for them. Further details around sexual harassment, including online, is available in our child protection policy here:

<https://www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=4196&type=pdf>

Students can report a concern to their Head of Year in school, or via the Google Form here: <https://forms.gle/Sn7Gs64yPkGtwmXa8>

General Resources

- Childline – Healthy Relationships: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/friends-relationships-sex/sex-relationships/healthy-unhealthy-relationships/>
- Childline – Sexual Harassment: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/abuse-safety/sexual-harassment/>
- NSPCC – general advice for parents around discussing difficult topics: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>
- Following an upsurge in cases of sexual harassment and abuse reported on the “Everyone’s Invited” website and on social media platforms, there is a dedicated number 0800136663, run by the NSPCC, will provide both children and adults who are victims of sexual abuse in schools with the appropriate support and advice.
- Parents Protect (<https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk>) is a website with advice and short videos on topics such as family safety plans and what to do if your child does get into trouble online. There is also a confidential helpline: 08081000900

Online Sexual Harassment Resources

Parents:

- Childnet: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/online-sexual-harassment-advice-leaflets/>

- Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families: <https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/let-s-talk-about-life-online-advice-for-parents/>
- Own It, an online resource to help parents and carers with supporting young people to have positive interactions and experiences online: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/parents>
- Internet Matters has advice, created by young people, for adults around discussions on online sexual harassment: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/young-peoples-advice-on-talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment/>

Young People:

- Own It is a website and app that is designed to help young people have happy and healthy lives online and covers a variety of topics such as cyberbullying, online privacy, fake news, creating content and how to keep safe online: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit>
- CEOP is part of the National Crime Agency and provides resources on a variety of areas around use online, this includes online sexual harassment, nudes and stalking: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18/