

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. Isaiah 32:17

Edwinstree Middle School
A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School



Sexual Harassment Statement

Adopted : July 2021
Review: December 2023

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Ofsted Report on Sexual Harassment

On 10 June 2021 Ofsted produced a report titled *Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges* which was widely cited with concern in the national press.

The link to this document is as follows: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>

Ofsted concluded that this review “has revealed how prevalent sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are for children and young people.”

The PSHE Association included the following as part of their summary of this report:

- Of the 32 schools visited, and 900 pupils spoken to, there was a sense that harassment and abuse had become so commonplace and normalised that some children are not even reporting it.
- Nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers.
- Pupils considered Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) as being too little, too late and the curriculum was not equipping them with the information and advice they needed, meaning they were turning to social media and peers instead.

The 32 schools from the Ofsted study included secondary, all-through and primary schools. The Ofsted recommendations for schools are shown below:

School and college leaders should create a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse is not tolerated, and where they identify issues and intervene early to better protect children and young people.

In order to do this, they should assume that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are happening in their setting, even when there are no specific reports, and put in place a whole-school approach to address them. This should include:

- *a carefully sequenced RSHE curriculum, based on the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) statutory guidance, that specifically includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online. This should include time for open discussion of topics that children and young people tell us they find particularly difficult, such as consent and the sending of ‘nudes’*
- *high-quality training for teachers delivering RSHE*
- *routine record-keeping and analysis of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, to identify patterns and intervene early to prevent abuse*
- *a behavioural approach, including sanctions when appropriate, to reinforce a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated*
- *working closely with LSPs in the area where the school or college is located so they are aware of the range of support available to children and young people who are victims or who perpetrate harmful sexual behaviour*
- *support for designated safeguarding leads (DSLs), such as protected time in timetables to engage with LSPs*
- *training to ensure that all staff (and governors, where relevant) are able to:*
 - *better understand the definitions of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online sexual abuse*
 - *identify early signs of peer-on-peer sexual abuse*
 - *consistently uphold standards in their responses to sexual harassment and online sexual abuse.*

Edwinstree recognises its safeguarding responsibilities and its need to educate its students, staff and all members of the school community on this topic. It is now working to meet the above recommendations.

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PSHE/RSHE Curriculum

The following lessons may directly or indirectly address this topic in an age-appropriate manner.

	PSHE Association/ DfE Theme		
	Living in the Wider World	Health and Wellbeing	Relationships and Sex
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet and Screen Time Age Restrictions Stereotypes and careers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FGM (***)Would this be classified as sexual harassment???) 	
Year 6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body Image Boy's Puberty Girl's Puberty Hormones and Emotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive / Safe Relationships Attraction and crushes Consent introduction Bullying Introduction / Bullying or Teasing? Online relationships – gaming Love and Abuse
Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Media – keeping safe Stereotypes and racism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puberty – what can I expect? FGM – what is it and why is it so serious? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining Positive Friendships and avoiding negative ones. How can we prevent online bullying? What is love and falling in love? Bullying or Banter? Keeping safe and positive relationships
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online grooming/internet safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teenage pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body image Domestic Conflict Consent Contraception Dangers of pornography Sexting and image sharing STI's

Training for teachers delivering RSHE

All teaching staff were given training on the latest Keeping Children Safe with a particular reference to Sexual Harassment this year. Staff were explicitly aware that it is our duty to support student's well-being within the school. We are currently looking to source training for our Pastoral team.

Routine record-keeping and analysis of sexual harassment and sexual violence

This is currently recorded within our internal Behaviour Management system, Behaviour Watch. In November 2021, we moved to adding a new category to our zero-tolerance list which now includes Sexual Harassment. Exclusions and their reasons are documented on the school's SIMS system.

Behavioural approach, including sanctions when appropriate

As part of the school's Behaviour system we have the Resolve approach as the primary method of dealing with incidents. Relevant sanctions also include a system of cards, a system of Justice Time and ultimately the possibility of tiered exclusions. Any exclusions are documented on the school's SIMS system.

Working closely with LSPs in the area

Edwinstree has close links with a variety of different Service Providers:

- Herts LA providers: CAHMS, nursing team.
- Local Church, Stonewall.

Support for designated safeguarding leads

DSP are awaiting support from County with training.

Training for all staff to identify sexual harassment

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See above.