

Our response to Sexual Behaviour in Children and Young People

At HKKG we take a preventative approach towards managing harmful sexual behaviour and promotion of healthy relationships in children and young people.

Some of the ways we do this is through:

- Enrichment days with a focus on healthy relationships, internet safety, online behaviour and character education.
- The curriculum for example in RS, English, Citizenship and Computer Science.
- Our RSHE curriculum
- Our assemblies and form time activities
- Our pastoral staff who support our students their worries and concerns

All concerns/ disclosures involving harmful sexual behaviour must be reported as per Appendix 7 of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The specific responses to inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour will vary dependent upon the young person's age, level of understanding, behaviour displayed and environment at the time.

The most important things to remember are that the behaviour should be addressed as soon as possible after it occurs and responses should be clear and consistent.

It is important that the child or young person understands exactly what is inappropriate about their behaviour and why. This is done by being specific when explaining what has been observed or reported. The words staff use will depend upon the age and developmental stage of the child or young person involved.

Where the DSL feels a referral is required, the Birmingham Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Team https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8321/responding_to_hsb_-_school_guidance.pdf may be contacted on:

0121 464 0600 or email SCHYOTBirminghamISB@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

HSB is a specialist service for children and young people aged 7-17 living within the city of Birmingham, where there are concerns about harmful sexual behaviour and/or criminal offence.

Further information and support can be found at:

[What is sexual harassment? | Rape Crisis England & Wales](#)

[Sexual harassment | Childline](#)

Harmful sexual behaviour refers to sexual activity that does not involve mutual consent by the individuals involved and/or where the relationship includes an imbalance of power, and where the behaviour has the potential to cause physical and/or emotional harm.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Harmful sexual behaviour in children may:

- Occur at a frequency greater than would be developmentally expected
- Interfere with the child's development
- Occur with coercion, intimidation or force
- Be associated with emotional distress
- Occur between children of divergent ages or development abilities
- Repeatedly recur in secrecy after intervention by caregivers

When considering the most appropriate response to an incident of harmful sexual behaviour there are three key points to highlight:

- **Wherever any safeguarding concerns are noted a referral should be made to Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS)**
- The child or young person should always receive clear and consistent messages that the behaviour is not appropriate as soon after it has occurred as possible.
- Contact should be made with the parents or carers of the young person to inform them of the behaviour.

The flow chart on the next page should be used:

Report of sexual behaviour received (from victim or 3rd party, onsite, offsite or online)

Victim Reassured, taken seriously and kept safe; and never given impression they are creating a problem. Confidentiality not promised. Listen to victim non-judgementally. Record the facts of the disclosure as reported (yellow form).

Report to DSL as soon as possible.

Victim sensitively informed about referral to other agencies. Consent to share sought but not required in order to protect child from harm. Note: in cases of sexual violence there is legal protection of victim's identity including sharing on social media and discussion amongst students in school.

Definitions

Sexual violence: rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault

Sexual Harassment: Unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, sexual remarks, sexual taunts, physical behaviour or online sexual harassment.

Considerations:

Wishes of victim; nature of alleged incident; ages of children; development stage of child; power imbalance; one-off or part of a pattern; ongoing risks to victim or others; related issues and wider context (eg CSE)

Determine level of behaviour/ need (see also appendices 1 and 5 here: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8321/responding_to_hsb_school_guidance.pdf). Contact HSB if additional advice is required to determine level of behaviour 0121 464 0600

Universal
Plus

One-off incidents where early help or statutory intervention not required and would be appropriate to deal with under schools behaviour policy. Monitor the behaviour. Consider in-school activity to create awareness/ challenge behaviours. Follow Appendix 7 procedures above if required.

If the behaviour continues or escalates contact HSB for advice. Consider an early help assessment. Do a risk assessment on a case-by-case basis.

Additional
Needs

Gather more information about the background of the young person, their home circumstances, previous sexual behaviour, family life etc using Appendix 2 from https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8321/responding_to_hsb_school_guidance.pdf.

Identify what support is already in place for the young person and their family. If additional support is required consider what the nature of this should be.

If the behaviour continues or escalates contact HSB for advice. Do a risk assessment. Do an early help assessment.

Complex/
Significant

Refer to CASS and HSB. Ensure control measures are in place

Refer to police for all incidents of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault.

Immediate risk assessment. Emphasis on victim being able to continue normal routines.

CASS:
0121 303 1888
cass@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk
Emergency out-of-hours :
0121 675 4806