

About this toolkit

These lesson plans and activities have been designed to address the issue of online sexual harassment amongst young people aged 13 – 17 years. Using the findings of a survey with over 3000 young people, and working alongside both young people and educators, they aim to give young people the opportunity to explore their own attitudes and opinions, and to discuss ways to challenge unacceptable online behaviour. The reporting process is a key theme that runs throughout the toolkit, and the different reporting options are explored and clarified.

Opportunities for adaptation and extension are provided for all activities, plus additional information for educators to understand the background of the issues at hand and guidance on discussing these with students.

How to use this toolkit

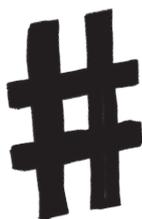
To ensure you are fully equipped to deliver these lessons and activities, please familiarise yourself with the background information and advice in the accompanying '[Teaching Guidance](#)' document. This guidance includes:

- The definition of online sexual harassment
- Considerations about your school/setting, your teaching strategy, student's previous experiences and existing knowledge, your own knowledge and how to engage your students in these topics
- How to handle disclosures around online sexual harassment
- Establishing a safe environment for a high quality lesson
- Example letter for parents and carers
- A debriefing sheet for students
- Information on online sexual harassment and the law

These lessons are designed to be an introduction to the topic, and for many students this may be the first time they have an opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions on these issues out loud. As such, you may find these lessons open up more issues you wish to address with your students. These lessons are not designed to 'solve' issues of online sexual harassment, but instead seek to raise awareness of the complexities of the issue, to help prompt discussion and to build an atmosphere of trust and open conversation with your students. The overarching aim is to encourage more young people to speak about and report the unacceptable behaviour they may encounter online, and access the help they need.

Suggested timings

Each lesson has a suggested running time of 1 hour. These timings are suggestions only. You may wish to split up the activities further to allocate more time to each one, if you find your students have lots they want to discuss. It is recommended to space out the lessons across a number of days or weeks, rather than deliver all activities on one day or in one short period. This is to allow students time to process the issues discussed, and not feel too overwhelmed.





Sensitive topics

Please read through the lessons beforehand, and use the points in the accompanying [Teaching Guidance](#) (p.5) to reflect on how these lessons and subject matters may affect those you are teaching.

Please be aware the subject matters in these lessons are based on real-life examples, so may feel particularly pertinent and relevant to some young people you are working with.

There is a high likelihood some students, or people they know, will have experienced an element of online sexual harassment. To discuss this behaviour in a group of their peers, some of whom will also know about their experiences and may even have played a part, may trigger an emotional response. Be sensitive to the students' needs and make it clear they can speak to you or any member of staff at any point if they feel uncomfortable.

This may be the first opportunity your students have had to discuss these issues. There is a possibility they will express some misconceptions or problematic views. Remember that these views are likely to be a reflection of wider societal issues, and see it as a positive teaching opportunity to constructively question them.

Also be aware of the triggering effect these issues may have on yourself or other members of staff. Online sexual harassment, and other offline forms of abuse and harassment can affect anyone. Read through the toolkit before you plan to deliver the activities. If you feel the topics will affect your emotional well-being, speak to your Senior Leadership Team for support.

Detailed advice on preparing to discuss sensitive topics are found on p.5 and p.10 of the [Teaching Guidance](#).



Possible disclosures

As a result of the issues raised in these lessons, it is possible a student may make a disclosure to you about a negative online experience, or that of another student. If this happens, acknowledge the student for doing the right thing by speaking up, and follow your school or setting's safeguarding procedure as you would for any other type of disclosure.

The aim of delivering the activities in this toolkit is to increase reporting of online sexual harassment. Speak to your Senior Leadership Team before delivering the sessions to discuss the possibility of an increase in the number of reports being made by students about this issue, and the emotional impact it may have on the school/setting community. Remember, if the number of disclosures made goes up, this is not to say more incidents are happening. It is more likely that the number of incidents remains the same but more students have come forward to report them. This should be seen as a positive step in your school's strategy to addressing online sexual harassment amongst your student community.

Detailed advice on handling disclosures around online sexual harassment is found on p.8 of the [Teaching Guidance](#).

