

TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child in their education, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

Sexual Harassment in Schools: A Parent's Guide

At school at the moment, we are educating the pupils about sexual harassment, what it is and what it is not. We offer this guidance to support you in how to approach this sensitive topic with your child.

Sexual Harassment : What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment is unwanted and unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature which interferes with a pupil's right to learn, study, work, achieve, or participate in school activities in a comfortable and supportive atmosphere. Under law and policies, sexual harassment is illegal and is prohibited in school settings. Sexual harassment may happen to any pupil regardless of their gender or age.



What behaviours are not OK?

- It is not OK to grab, touch, or pinch the private body parts of another person.
- It is not OK to say silly or nasty things about anyone's private body parts.
- It is not OK to make fun of someone for being who they are.
- It is not OK to give an unwanted kiss or hug or to dare someone else to do that.
- It is not OK to brush up against someone in a way that makes them feel bad.
- It is not OK to pass notes, pictures, jokes or cartoons that make someone feel bad.
- It is not OK to make gestures that make someone feel bad.

What to tell your children about sexual harassment

- 'No' means 'no.'
- Sexual harassment is not your fault.
- Nothing you say or do makes you deserve it.
- Sexual harassment isn't about feelings of love or being attracted to someone.
- It's about having power over someone and not respecting their decisions and limits.
- Sexual harassment, on the other hand, is unwanted behaviour. It is one-sided and uses the power of words and actions to make someone feel embarrassed or dirty.





What should I do if I believe my child is being sexually harassed?

- Ignoring sexual harassment is not a way to stop it!
- Tell a member of safeguarding / pastoral team at Penwortham Priory Academy
- Tell your child to firmly say "No! Stop!" to the harasser whenever possible.
- Help your child to recall and write down: date, time, place, and other people who may have been around.
- The government has also asked NSPCC to set up a helpline for children to seek advice:

The NSPCC has launched a new, dedicated helpline for children that need support and guidance. They can **contact the NSPCC 'Report Abuse in Education' helpline on 0800 136 663 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.**



How do I know when sexual harassment may be occurring?

Is my child being harassed? Is my child harassing someone? Ask yourself the following questions:

- Does the behaviour make my child or someone else feel bad?
- Does the behaviour interfere with my child's, or someone else's, ability to learn or to enjoy school or classroom activities?
- Does the behaviour involve one person trying to have some kind of power over another person?
- Is the behaviour part of a repeated pattern?
- Would I want this behaviour to be directed toward my child?

A green rectangular box with white text and icons. At the top, it says 'Report Abuse in Education'. Below that are three lines of text: 'Call 0800 136 663' with a phone icon, 'Email help@nspcc.org.uk' with an email icon, and 'In an emergency, call 999' with an exclamation mark icon.

You can find further information from NSPCC regarding Understanding Sexual Behaviours in children via this link...

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/sex-relationships/sexual-behaviour-children