



Parent's Guide to Sexual Harassment

In 2021, Ofsted published a review of sexual abuse in schools.

- 92% of girls and 74% of boys said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes
- 64% of girls and 24% of boys reported unwanted touching
- 92% of girls and 53% of boys reported rumours about sexual activity
- 80% of girls and 40% boys reported pressure to provide sexual images of themselves

Sexual harassment and sexual violence against children (in particular girls) is very real and is happening. We must tackle it

What Can Parents Do?

Understand Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Sexual development in children is a normal part of growing up – harmful sexual behaviour is not. Recognizing when sexualized behaviour is inappropriate or problematic, and challenging it, is vital. There are some great tools out there to help you understand the difference, see NSPCC.

Talk To Your Child

This can feel very challenging for some parents, but if you don't talk to your child about relationships, sex and touch, they will get their information from somewhere else. Talk about the importance of valuing and respecting your body and the bodies of others, of personal space and what consent means.

Challenge Sexist Attitudes

Sexism can lead to the normalizing of sexual harassment against women and girls

Monitor Your Child Online

Talk to your child keeping theirs and others information, photos and videos private and never share without consent. Teach your child to leave chats or groups and block individuals when behaviour makes them feel uncomfortable. Check your child's online activity regularly.

Be A Role Model

Children are shaped by those around them, their family and friends, and the community and society in which they are growing up. Be mindful of your own language, thoughts, actions and relationships and what they communicate to your child.

Don't Minimize

Sexual harassment is not "just a bit of fun". It is not behaviour that should be excused as "boys will be boys" or "just playing around". Boys are explaining their actions as "banter" needs to be challenged

The Safeguarding Team at Haven High offer pupils, parents and their family resources, advice, signposting and referrals that promote children's safety, safeguarding and wellbeing.

Our aim is that all the children at Haven High have the best possible outcomes.

Please get in touch if you are worried about a child or would like more information.

Email safe@havenhigh.net or call the Year Hub on 01205 311979