

# SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS WITH THE 'EVERYONE'S INVITED' WEBSITE SEXUAL ABUSE DISCLOSURES

1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

**New national Report Abuse in Education helpline  
0800 136 663**

Monday to Friday 8am - 10pm, or 9am - 6pm at weekends.

The government aims to mobilise support services for students reporting current and historic sexual abuse in their schools as soon as possible. In the meantime, we have gathered together a few tips and resources that may be helpful.

## **Some principles of effective support**

- Anyone coming forward with allegations should be taken seriously and treated with sensitivity and respect.
- People who come forward should be empowered to have some control over how the disclosure is dealt with. They should be kept informed about steps taken.
- Not all victims are seeking a Criminal Justice response. Some just want to be heard and reassured that this will not happen again to them or others in the school environment.
- Shame and Blame cultures are damaging. Demonising perpetrators whilst still children can have a profoundly damaging effect. Children need support to change harmful behaviours whilst acknowledging the pain they have caused.
- Families of both victims and perpetrators require support to come to terms with what has happened and to support their own children appropriately.
- The culture amongst pupils needs to be addressed proactively but sensitively to ensure victims are not blamed, ridiculed and re-traumatised.

- It is vital that we choose our words carefully to avoid victim-blaming language.
- Make sure you adhere to your organisation's safeguarding procedures and local authority reporting mechanisms where appropriate. If a child chooses to disclose to you, your job in that moment is to listen and record, not to investigate.

## Resources

[DfE advice](#) on sexual harassment and sexual violence between children in schools and colleges.

Stop It Now Preventing Harmful Sexual Behaviour [Toolkit](#)

NSPCC Harmful Sexual Behaviour [Framework](#) and Tools

Safe4Me [toolkit](#) and resources for educators and support workers

Relationships and Sex Education [resources](#) from the PHSE Association

[Blogpost](#) from Dr Jenny Lloyd from the Bedfordshire University Contextual Safeguarding Network cautioning against 'Zero Tolerance' approaches for Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Contextual Safeguarding Network [article](#) and resources on tackling HSB in schools

Contextual Safeguarding Network [briefing](#) on HSB in Schools

[Video resource](#): Responding to abuse through image-sharing in schools

[Video resource](#): Safety Mapping

Appropriate Language [Guidance](#) for professionals when dealing with sexual exploitation

## Helplines & Websites

Childline	0800 1111	<a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a>
Confidential support and counselling for children		

StopItNow	0808 1000 900	<a href="http://www.stopitnow.org.uk">www.stopitnow.org.uk</a>
Confidential help and support for concerning behaviours for yourself or another person to prevent child sexual abuse		

The Mix                                      0808 8084994                                      [www.themix.org.uk](http://www.themix.org.uk)  
Information and support for under-25s

NAPAC                                      0808 8010331                                      [www.napac.org.uk](http://www.napac.org.uk)  
Support for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse (aged 18+)

Rape Crisis                                      0808 802 9999                                      [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)  
Support for any female victim of rape or sexual violence

