

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment in Schools/Colleges Pathway* (v1.3)

Direct and Indirect Disclosure & initial response

This could come any source and including overhearing conversations, anonymous reports, observations. The reported behaviour could be onsite, off site or online.



Managing a Disclosure and Supporting the Victim

- Do not promise confidentiality and explain why [Protocol on Sharing Information in Order to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children](#)
- Recognise that the child is likely to disclose to somebody they trust. This could be any member of school/college staff.
- Listen carefully, do not judge, ask open questions (TED Questions) and be clear about how the disclosure will be progressed.
- Ensure the disclosure is recorded, only records facts as the child presents them.
- If the DSL is not available, speak to the Deputy DSL. If they are not available then you should take immediate action and follow this guidance.
- Where the report includes on an online element, be aware of the [Searching, Screening and Confiscation Guidance](#) and [Child Internet Safety \(UKCCIS\) Guidance](#) for schools and colleges. Guidance can be found via the LSCP Sending and Sharing of Nude Images in Schools & Colleges Pathway



Considerations

- [Please see the LSCP Sending and Sharing of Nude Images in Schools and Colleges Pathway and Annexs A and C](#)
- The wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed.
- The nature of the alleged incident(s) including: potential crime(s)/sexually harmful behaviour(s)
- Consideration of siblings/other children who may be at risk within the alleged perpetrators family/social context
- The ages of those children involved.
- The age, developmental stages of the children involved and any special educational needs
- [Capacity to Consent](#)
- Any power imbalances between the children.
- Is the incident alleged/one off/pattern of abuse.
- Have you called the Customer Service Centre (CSC) on 01522 782111 for advice/consultation?



Immediate Actions

- Where there is an immediate significant risk to the child an immediate referral must be made to the Police/Children's Services. If the behaviour is a sexual offence or crime this must be reported to the Police and a referral made to Children's Services. [Safeguarding Referrals Procedure](#)
- Where there are repeated incidents of concern and/or patterns of behaviour consultation must be undertaken with the CSC.
- The DSL should make use of the [Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool \(Brook\)**](#) and [Annex A](#)



Risk and Needs Assessment: on a Case by Case Basis—any reports of sexual violence require an immediate assessment

Where the report is related to sexual harassment the risk and needs assessment should consider: the victim, especially their protection and support; , whether there may have been other victims, the alleged perpetrator(s); and all the other children (and, if appropriate, adult students and staff) (See Annex D)



Safeguarding and Support:

This should consider the victim(s), the alleged perpetrator(s) and other children/young people (adult student and staff if applicable). This should be undertaken on a case by case basis with an individualised approach. Children and Young People should be given the option for a person that they trust to act as their advocate. Further information and guidance can be found via:

- [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges.pdf](#)
- Victim Lincs – Mon– Fri 8am–4pm: 01522 947510 or out of hours: 0908 1689 111
- [National Youth Advocacy Service](#) and [VoiceAbility | Lincolnshire](#)



Disciplinary Measures Taken

Schools should make use of their relevant policies— anti bullying/behaviour. A proportionate response is required on a case by case basis. Any actions must not undermine any ongoing Police investigations. Schools/Colleges should continue to work closely with the Police and other agencies.



Ongoing Response

- Update risk and needs assessment.
- Continue to safeguard and support the victim(s) and the perpetrator(s)/alleged perpetrator(s).
- Pg. 71 Keeping Children safe in Education



The criminal process ends

- For all outcomes- update the risk and needs assessment.
- Conviction or caution— Consider suitable action in light of behaviour policy. Set clear expectations regarding the perpetrator(s). Safeguard and support the victim(s).
- Not Guilty/No further Action— support the victim(s) and alleged perpetrator(s).