



Teenage Relationship Abuse

*Advice for schools: DfE / **Home Office***

- ✓ Identification
- ✓ Intervention (Referral)
- ✓ Action
- ✓ Prevention



This is Abuse campaign

*'Research by the NSPCC1 showed that teenagers **didn't understand what constituted abusive behaviours** such as controlling behaviours, which could escalate to physical abuse, eg. checking someone's phone, telling them what to wear, who they can/can't see or speak to and that this abuse was prevalent within teen relationships. This led to these abusive behaviours feeling 'normal' and therefore left unchallenged as they were not recognised as being abusive.'*

*'Further research showed that teenagers didn't understand what **consent** meant within their relationships. '*

*'Two campaigns which aimed to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships by encouraging them to re-think their views of violence, abuse and controlling behaviours, and understand what consent meant within their relationships. By aiming the campaigns at 13 to 18 year old boys and girls we hoped to influence teenager's **attitudes and behaviours** before they became more entrenched in adulthood.'*

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Introduction / PSHE

- Understanding 'relationship abuse'
- Understanding 'healthy relationships'
- Types of abuse
- Understanding 'Controlling behaviour'
- The Law
- Warning signs and asking for help
- Understanding consent
- Views about sexual assault
- Consequences
- Sharing sexual images
- Implications and Impact

Crimes within the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and Serious Crime Act 2015

It's never acceptable to use controlling behaviours in any circumstances

Coercive controlling behaviour offence

- Coercive or controlling behaviour does not relate to a single incident, it is a ***purposeful pattern of incidents that occur over time in order for one individual to exert power, control or coercion over another***. It is a pattern of abuse, which takes place over time, and perpetrated within a context of power and control intended to subjugate the victim.
- This new offence focuses responsibility and accountability on the perpetrator who has chosen to carry out these behaviours and carries a ***maximum 5 years in prison***, a fine, or both.

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What is Consent?

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- Consent is defined in law as “**an agreement made by someone with the freedom and ability to decide something**”. Under the law, it is the person seeking consent who is responsible for ensuring that these conditions are met
- To be able to give your consent you should be sure that it is your decision and not one you have been pressured to make
- The law in Britain says that both people need to give their consent before sex or any physical closeness
- The law also says that to **consent to have sex a person must be 16** or over and have the ability to make informed decisions for themselves (this means for example they have to be mature enough to make the decision and are not so intoxicated as to be unable to make the decision)

**SNOOZING
IS NOT
CHOOSING.**

SEX WITHOUT CONSENT IS RAPE.

Warning signs of abusive behaviours within a relationship

Some warning signs of potential abusive and violent behaviour which could happen with their relationships are:

- extreme jealousy
- anger when you want to spend time with your friends
- isolating you from friends and family
- trying to control your life (how you dress, who you hang out with and what you say)
- humiliating you, putting you down
- threatening to harm you or to self-harm if you leave them
- demanding to know where you are all the time
- monitoring your calls and emails, threatening you if you don't respond instantly
- excessive alcohol drinking and drug use
- explosive anger
- using force during an argument
- blaming others for his/her problems or feelings
- being verbally abusive
- threatening behaviour towards others
- pressuring you to send sexual texts and images of yourself
- someone sharing any sexual text and images of you with their mates

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Key points

- Relationship abuse happens when one person hurts or bullies another person who is or was their partner or who is in the same family. The perpetrator of such abuse is always responsible; no one else is to blame
- It can happen between people of any age, nationality, race or family background, including young people
- It can happen between young people who are going out together, living together, have children together or are married to each other. It can happen either when people live together or separately
- Relationship abuse can also happen after a relationship has finished
- In heterosexual relationships, while women are disproportionately the victims of abuse, men can also be victims of abuse and can often find it harder to seek help. Abuse can happen in same-sex relationships.
- Abuse within relationships is often a repeated pattern of behaviour
- It often includes several different types of abusive behaviour, including physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse
- People use both physical and emotional abuse to control other people they have a relationship with
- Relationship, domestic and sexual abuse is unacceptable and in many cases criminal.
- Abuse can never be justified
- Nobody ever deserves to be abused
- Anyone who is affected by the issues should talk to an appropriate adult about making themselves safer.

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Disclosure - Intervention / Action

- Record – OSA - CPOMS
- MASH or Customer First
- Childline 0800 1111
- Police - 101