

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

# Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Schools



Peer-on-peer harmful sexual behaviour - including sexual violence and sexual harassment - is a safeguarding and child protection issue that all those who work with children and young people should be aware of. The Ofsted report in 2021 found that this issue has become so widespread that it is now considered 'commonplace' and, as a result, a large number of children are being seriously impacted. Schools and other educational settings need to take action to change these statistics.

This Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Schools course will give you the skills and knowledge you need to safeguard children and young people in this area. It defines harmful sexual behaviour and categorises different behaviours that fall under this term on a continuum of severity, describing the different responses you should take within each category. It also goes into detail about the causes and consequences of the behaviour, and sets out how you can reduce the likelihood of it occurring, through measures such as positive education and a safe, healthy whole-school culture.

#### **Module One: Introduction to Harmful Sexual Behaviour**

This module goes into detail about what harmful sexual behaviour, sexual violence, and sexual harassment are, contrasting this behaviour with healthy or developmentally typical sexual behaviour. It describes the continuum of harmful sexual behaviour and discusses the law in relation to it, as well as Ofsted's expectations for schools in this area.

- Why is this training important?
- What is sexual violence and harassment?
- What is typical sexual behaviour?
- What is harmful sexual behaviour?
- Case study
- Who is affected?
- The law in relation to HSB
- Ofsted expectations

#### **Module Two: Causes, Consequences, and Warning Signs**

In this module, a variety of potential causes for harmful sexual behaviour are discussed, including previous experience of abuse, the normalisation of the behaviour through pornography, and the availability of online sites and apps like OnlyFans and Snapchat. The module also discusses factors that put a child at higher risk of experiencing this behaviour, reasons why children don't report incidents, warning signs that a child has been affected, and the potential consequences this can have on their life.

- Causes of harmful sexual behaviour
- Risk factors
- Reasons why children don't report
- Case study
- Warning signs
- Consequences of harmful sexual behaviour

#### **Module Three: Protective Strategies**

This module covers the ways in which schools can reduce the likelihood of harmful sexual behaviour occurring, such as by providing positive education, promoting positive life skills, and having a safe, healthy whole-school culture with clear expectations, policies, and procedures in place. Three topics included in the new Relationships, Health, and Sex Education curriculum - the ones which teachers have found most difficult to teach - are discussed in detail, clarifying what teachers should discuss and giving you ideas of how to do so.

- A whole-school approach
- Staff training
- Curriculum content
- Case study
- Healthy relationships
- Consent
- Online safety (including sending images)

#### **Module Four: Reactive Measures**

This module discusses how to react to incidents of harmful sexual behaviour, delineating your response to the severity of the situation, and ensuring that children feel supported and empowered to speak out. It covers both immediate responses, responses to disclosures from a child, and consequences to put in place once the situation has been defused. Situations of sharing nudes and semi-nudes are discussed in detail, and scenarios are given to show when different responses would be appropriate. Additionally, the module explains how to have effective discussions with parents or carers and keep accurate records of events.

- Immediate responses
- Disclosures from a child
- Choosing your response
- Developmentally typical behaviour
- Low-level behaviour
- High-level (abusive/violent) behaviour
- Responding to children with additional needs
- Scenarios
- Sharing nudes and semi-nudes
- Scenarios
- Discussions with parents/carers
- Record-keeping

## Aims of the training

By the end of this course, you will:

- Understand what developmentally typical sexual behaviour is.
- Understand what harmful sexual behaviour is.
- Understand the importance of addressing harmful sexual behaviour in school, and your responsibilities in relation to safeguarding, the law, and Ofsted expectations.
- Know who is most at risk from harmful sexual behaviour, and what the root causes can be.
- Be able to recognise the warning signs that sexual harassment, abuse, or violence is occurring.
- Understand the potential consequences of the behaviour.
- Understand the issue of consent.
- Know protective strategies that you can put in place to reduce the likelihood of harmful sexual behaviour occurring, including teaching children about healthy relationships.
- Know reactive measures that you can take to respond to this type of behaviour in situations of differing levels of severity, including those where nudes or semi-nudes are shared.
- Understand when to report allegations or concerns to other agencies, including the police.