

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Schools

Child-on-child abuse in the form of harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), including sexual harassment and sexual violence, is a safeguarding and child protection issue that all people working with children must be aware of. HSB in schools, in particular, is widely reported to be an increasing concern, with children being more significantly influenced by the content, themes and ideologies they are exposed to online being a potential cause.

This course explains what HSB is. It also examines what may potentially influence or cause children to display HSB, and the impact it can have on victims. It clearly outlines the responsibilities placed on schools, and covers how school staff can recognise and respond to a variety of incidents and concerns. It also covers how to effectively incorporate preventative measures into teaching and learning.

Module 1: Introduction to Harmful Sexual Behaviour

This module examines the broader issue of HSB in schools and why training is so important. It begins to outline the expectations placed on schools, explains what HSB is in the context of a continuum of sexual behaviours and examines the laws and legislation around it.

- Key terms
- Why is this training important?
- Expectations for schools
- Ofsted expectations
- Sexual harassment and sexual violence (including online elements)
- Developmentally expected sexual behaviour
- What is HSB?
- Who is affected by HSB?
- The law in relation to HSB

Module 2: Causes, Indicators and Impacts

This module examines factors that may lead some children to exhibit HSB, including influences associated with online content. It also looks more closely at the impacts HSB can have on victims in particular and how to recognise when a child may be experiencing or has experienced HSB.

- The prevalence of HSB
- Poor quality teaching of HSB in schools
- Potential influences: pornography
- Other online content risks
- Misogyny
- Extreme ideologies
- Other causes of HSB
- Adolescence
- Risk factors
- Why does HSB go unreported?
- Potential indicators
- Potential impacts

Module 3: Protective strategies

This module focuses on how to build teaching around HSB into the curriculum and school life, in line with government and Ofsted expectations. It focuses specifically on areas that teachers have reported to find more challenging to cover.

- A whole-school approach
- Staff training
- Curriculum content
- Healthy relationships
- Characteristics of unhealthy relationships
- Consent
- Online safety

Module 4: Responding to Concerns, Incidents and Disclosures

This module explains how staff should respond to a variety of incidents relating to HSB, including how to respond to a direct disclosure from a child, the responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and when to involve the police.

- Responding to a disclosure or incident
- Responses to developmentally typical behaviour
- Low-level behaviour
- High-level behaviour
- Responding to children with additional needs
- Sharing nudes and semi-nudes
- Discussions with parents or carers
- Effective incident and disclosure recording
- Information sharing

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 schools.
- Understand your responsibilities regarding safeguarding, the law and statutory guidance requirements.
- 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 harmful sexual behaviour.
- Understand the concept 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 how to respond to harmful sexual behaviour, depending on the severity and including those where nudes or semi-nudes are shared.
- Understand when to report allegations or concerns to other agencies, including the police.