

BEYOND REFERRALS

Carrying out surveys with students

Student Survey Guidance

This guidance forms part of the Beyond Referrals audit toolkit and should help schools audit their responses to harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). This guidance outlines one method that can help a school complete their beyond referrals audit – carrying out surveys with students.

Speaking to students is essential when trying to understand what is happening in your school and how you can improve your school's response to harmful sexual behavior. The student survey focuses on keeping young people safe from sexual bullying and other types of sexual harm within schools and it will ask questions about:

- what types of sexual harm happens in school, how often it happens, and what students think of the school's response to sexual harm

We've put this information sheet together to provide some helpful information about carrying out a student survey in your school. The questions in the survey are provided as a basis to help inform the above - but you are welcome to adapt the questions in any way that you find useful to complete your beyond referrals audit.

Who to involve:

We've developed this survey for secondary school children.

It is up to you which students you involve in the survey. In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of what is happening in your school we feel it would be beneficial to engage a range of students in the survey.

We have slightly different surveys that can be used with different age groups and developmental needs. For this reason, it is probably easiest if you involve young people in class/school-year groups so that everyone in the session is completing the same survey.

The survey

We have both a paper and an electronic version of the survey.

The survey will be anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

The survey will not be asking students anything about their personal experiences. However, we appreciate that asking general questions about sexual harm happening in school may be potentially difficult for some young people. That is why we are asking students to complete the survey in school, where you can be alert to any potential signs of distress. We would ask you to have a member of the pastoral support team available on the day to provide support with this.

Gaining consent

If you have your own school protocols in relation to carrying out surveys then we are happy for you to follow these.

If you would like to follow our research protocols that we will be using to carry out the surveys in Tier 1 schools then these are as follows:

- Each pupil needs to give their own consent to take part, as we don't want any pupil taking part who doesn't want to. We include a section at the beginning of the survey to obtain pupil consent.
- We have included a leaflet you can give pupils in advance of the survey that explains the research and provides students with information that will help them decide if they would like to take part.
- For the surveys we are carrying out in the core (tier 1) schools we are gaining opt-out parental consent for students under the age of 16 years old. We understand that you may often carry out surveys in your school and that you have school protocols in relation to this.
- The purpose of the survey should be to assess the current situation in your school related to HSB and allow students to feel comfortable to reflect on their views on the school responses to HSB. It is important therefore that the survey is confidential and anonymous.

Survey session

When introducing the survey it would be helpful to highlight the following points:

- What the survey is about: it focuses on keeping young people safe from sexual bullying and other types of sexual harm within schools. It will be asking questions about:
 - what types of sexual harm happens in school and how often it happens
 - how well schools respond to these issues and how this could be improved

It is important to outline what we mean about sexual harm so that everyone has the same understanding: **When we talk about sexual harm we mean anything sexual that is abusive or makes you feel upset or uncomfortable.** The survey will specifically focus on sexual harm in school.

See if the students can come up with examples. Examples you can share:

- Being pressured to send someone nudes
- Sexual bullying, sexism, violence or harassment.

- The survey will not be asking students about their individual experiences of sexual harm, but some of these questions may make students think about something that has happened to them or someone they know – it is important to tell them how to get support about this. For example, identifying a member of pastoral support who will be free and available to speak to on the day.
- Remind young people that they do not have to take part in the survey and that they can pass any question they want, go back and change answers and stop/leave at any point-There are no right and wrong answers – it's not an exam!
- The survey can be completed online, or if preferred, hard copy (*so long as school can do online*)
- The survey is anonymous and students do not need to put their name on it. If there is something in the survey that makes the school worried about someone's safety the school won't be able to tell who it came from. However the school will know which class/ year group the answers came from, so they can make sure they are available if someone wants to get any help or support.
- Remind students that it is okay to talk to each other after, but not to ask people to share their answers in case it is upsetting for them.
- The survey is made up of mostly multiple-choice questions, with a few other questions asking students to explain these answers
- What you will do with the information collected from the survey: the students answers are really important to help the school understand what support is available for young people who are experiencing sexual bullying, sexism, violence or harassment in school; how well schools respond to these issues, and how this could be improved.
- The survey will take about 20 minutes – you have 30 minutes, so no need to hurry.
- Opportunity for questions
- Check if they are okay to begin

AFTER SURVEY

- Thank you for doing the survey.
- Give out follow up sheet.
- Check for safeguarding concerns on the surveys.

Why have I been given this leaflet?

To tell you about a survey we are doing and help you decide if you want to take part.

What is the survey about?

The survey is about keeping young people safe from harm in schools such as sexual bullying and other types of sexual harm within schools.

We know that young people can experience sexual bullying, sexism, sexual violence or harassment in their relationships and friendships with other young people. We also know that this can sometimes happen within schools. We understand that when this happens, many young people don't know how to get help and support, and sometimes the right help and support is not available.

We want to find ways to make schools feel safer for young people and to make sure there is good support available if they experience sexual bullying or harm.

Telling us what you think

We would like to carry out a survey with pupils to find out what they think about these issues. We would be talking about:

- what makes young people feel safe, and unsafe, in school,
- what help there is available for young people who are experiencing sexual bullying, sexism, violence or harassment.
- how well schools respond to these issues and how this could be improved

We will not be asking anyone about their personal experiences - just their thoughts on how things are in their school.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is totally up to you whether you want to take part. If you do take part it is also up to you what you tell us. We won't ask you for personal information and you don't have to answer any questions you don't want to.

What will you do with the information that I tell you?

If you do take part we will store the information you provide in the survey very carefully.

We will use what you tell us to create resources for school and to improve the way schools keep young people safe. We won't use your name or anything else that would let people know who took part.

Are the things I tell you confidential?

As the survey is anonymous we won't know what individual students have told us. If you want us to know and want to seek help you can provide contact details. We won't tell anyone about what you tell us unless you say something that makes us worried about you or someone else being seriously harmed.

I want to take part, what do I do now?

Please tell the teacher who gave you this leaflet.

What if I change my mind about taking part?

If you change your mind about taking part during the survey, that's no problem – you can leave. You can also ask us not to use what you've told and we'll make sure we don't use it.

If you have any questions, you can talk to your teacher or staff name.

Survey information
leaflet

'Keeping young people
safe from sexual harm in
schools'

Follow up information

Thank you so much for taking part in our survey. It will really help us to understand what support is available in school for young people who experience sexual harm and how this could be improved.

Here's a bit more information for you to take home with you.

What happens now?

We will use what you and other young people have told us in your surveys to help improve the schools response to sexual harm.

Support

If anything has worried or upset you today, or you would like to talk about things a bit more, you can:

- Speak to **NAME OF SCHOOL SUPPORT** or another adult you trust
- **Contact Childline at any time of the day or night.** You can call them free on 0800 1111 or speak to an online counsellor at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/

Thank you so much for your help today.

