

**Sexual Harassment & Abuse
Statement**

FREQUENCY OF REVIEW: Annually

RATIFICATION: Summer Term 2021

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: Autumn Term 2022

APPROVED BY: Trust Board

AUTHOR: CEO

TrustEd Schools' Partnership Statement on sexual abuse in schools: July 2021

We are aware of the recent Ofsted's review of sexual abuse in schools – June 2021. We note that in this report it states that young people experience a prevalence of sexual harassment, inappropriate e-communication and other related behaviours. For example, the review stated that 90% of secondary aged girls reported unwanted sexualised e-communication. Ofsted also referred to other evidence that suggested 15% of concerns disclosed to a self-report website, were from primary aged pupils. Schools must therefore assume that sexual harassment, online sexual abuse and sexual violence is likely to be happening across all areas of the UK and therefore also in their school communities. Even though schools may have no specific reports or concerns at present, we have decided all of our schools should put in place a whole-school approach to address it.

Our schools make sure that:

- Where incidents are reported, they understand how to handle them, in line with the DfE's guidance.
- They train their staff accordingly (including teachers delivering relationships, sex and health education)
- They have good awareness of the signs that a child is being neglected or abused and that they are confident about what to do if a child reports that they have been sexually abused by another child
- They ensure that children are taught about safeguarding risks, including online risks and they support pupils to understand what constitutes a healthy relationship, both online and offline.

Our schools have a carefully sequenced RSHE curriculum, based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance, that specifically includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online.

Our teachers are trained on delivery of RSHE. We also make sure that our staff and governors are trained generally in this area.

Our schools keep careful record and analysis of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, to identify patterns and intervene early to prevent abuse.

Our schools make sure that they also take a behavioural approach, including sanctions when appropriate, to reinforce a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated.

Our schools work in careful partnership with other professionals, as is reflected in our Safeguarding Policies.

Each of our school has a trained Safeguarding lead who is given time and support to fully discharge their duties in this important area. All of our schools have other non-senior staff in welfare or support roles in this area.

In our work with pupils, our schools ensure that pupils are clear about the next steps, when an incident is reported and that they create a clear action plan with activities, responsibilities and timescale.

Refer also to related Policies: eg Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy and RSE Policy