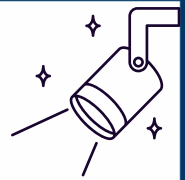




# SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT



## Sexual Assault and Harassment

**WARNING – SOME OF THE CONTENT IN THIS EDITION MAY BE TRIGGERING.  
PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM IF YOU WOULD LIKE SUPPORT**

**Although anyone can experience sexual harassment and violence**, research indicates that girls are disproportionately affected. In their 2020 report, How Safe are Our Children?, the NSPCC found 90% of recorded offences of rape in 13 to 15-year-olds were committed against girls.

In July 2024, a report in the guardian stated:

Two million women are estimated to be victims of violence perpetrated by men each year in an epidemic so serious it amounts to a “national emergency”, police chiefs have warned. Crimes including stalking, harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence affect one in 12 women in England and Wales, with the number of recorded offences growing by 37% in the past five years and the perpetrators getting younger.

The figures are contained in the first national analysis of the scale of violence against women and girls (VAWG) by the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC).

Police chiefs also warned of young men being “radicalised” online by influencers such as Andrew Tate. They demanded technology companies act more quickly to take down extreme material.

## DEFINITIONS

Sexual violence is rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault or causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent.

Sexual harassment is unwanted conduct of a sexual nature.

Harmful sexual behaviour is problematic, abusive and violent behaviour by a child or young person that is developmentally inappropriate and may cause developmental damage.



## CONSENT

Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose (saying yes when being pressured, coerced, or threatened is not consent). Consent to sexual activity may be given to one sort of sexual activity but not another, e.g., to vaginal but not anal sex, or penetration with conditions, such as wearing a condom. Consent can be withdrawn at any time during sexual activity and each time activity occurs.

A child under the age of 13 can never consent to any sexual activity.

The age of consent is 16.

Sexual intercourse without consent is rape.

# SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves people being forced into paying money or meeting another financial demand, after an offender has threatened to release nude or semi-nude photos of them. This could be a real photo taken by the victim, or a fake image created of them by the offender.

PARENTS – PLEASE SEE THE GUIDANCE [HERE](#).

IF YOU ARE UNDER 18 AND ARE EXPERIENCING ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE, YOU CAN REPORT IT TO CEOP BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

## SEXTING

### UNDER 18

When you're under 18 it's against the law to send nudes or sexual videos of you to anyone else. It's also against the law for anyone to save or share a nude or sexual video of you. Even if it's a selfie or they're under 18 too.

Will I get in trouble?

You can get in trouble if you threaten to share a nude, even if you don't actually do it.

Only the police can decide if they're going to charge you with an offence after sexting. But it's important to remember that the law is there to protect you, not get you into trouble.



### OVER 18

Sexting between adults is legal. But it's against the law to send a nude or any kind of sexual image or video to someone under 18.

Asking for or viewing sexual images of someone who's under 18 is a crime.

It's also against the law to send a nude or video of someone who was under 18 at the time, but is an adult now.

Sharing other people's nudes

Sharing someone else's nudes or sexual videos without their consent is against the law, even when they're over 18. It can also be against the law to threaten to share someone's nudes or videos.



Nude image of you online?  
We can help take it down.

## HOW WILL COLLEGE SUPPORT ME IF I HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE OR HARASSMENT ?

All disclosures of sexual violence and harassment will be taken seriously.

A safeguarding officer will speak to you and offer support.

If you are under 18 and it is safe to do so they will support you to inform parents or carers, so they can keep you safe.

They will also need to make a report to the police, it is up to you whether you then decide to progress with this or not.

There may also be times when they need to inform social care, so they can ensure all the correct safety measures are in place, and to offer support to both you and your parents or carers if needed.

If the alleged perpetrator is also a student at college, the safeguarding team will follow necessary guidance from the police, and put a safety plan in place.

If you are over 18, and there are still concerns you may be unsafe, they may also need to make a report to police.

If you are safe then you will be offered support to report to police if you wish to do so, and supported to refer to external services such as the SARC or Arch.

Please be aware we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

There may be times we have to share information with local authorities, police or parents/carers, regardless of age.

Drop into the wellbeing centre, email [safeguarding@mbro.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@mbro.ac.uk), text SAFE to 60081 or speak to a tutor.