



WILBERFORCE
sixth form college

UNDERSTANDING AND REJECTING **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**



STOP SEXUAL HARASSMENT

INTRODUCTION

This guide will help you understand why it is wrong to sexually harass people in general and young women in particular and why it is important to treat others with respect. We will talk about how it makes people feel, the harm it can cause, why it is not just harmless joking around, and how scary it can be. Let's learn together how to create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?



Sexual harassment is when someone does or says things of a sexual nature that make others feel uncomfortable, upset, or scared. For example, repeatedly making comments about someone's body or making unwelcome advances would be considered sexual harassment. It can be done by a single person, or a group of people and it can happen to anyone. It is always horrible and never welcomed. It happens so often to young girls that they usually don't even report it.

Girls as young as 11 say they have been harassed by lone men or groups of men. At Wilberforce Sixth Form College, we want our female students to feel safe and comfortable and for our male students to understand the impact of sexual harassment.

How would you feel if it were your sister, friend, or someone you care about who was being harassed? You would want to protect them and make sure they feel safe, right? We need to treat all girls with the same care and respect you would want your family and friends to experience.

It's our responsibility to stand up against sexual harassment and create a culture where everyone feels valued and safe.





The Impact on Individuals:



Sexual harassment can deeply hurt the people it is directed at. It can make them feel violated, humiliated, and afraid.

Imagine if someone kept bothering you or saying inappropriate things that made you feel uncomfortable. It is important to treat others the way you want to be treated.

When girls experience sexual harassment, it can deeply affect them emotionally. They may feel scared, angry, ashamed, or sad. It can make them doubt themselves and feel less confident. Trusting others becomes harder, and they may struggle with feeling safe. Some girls even experience nightmares, anxiety, and difficulties focusing in college because of the harassment. It can also affect their relationships and how they see themselves. We need to understand that sexual harassment hurts girls in many ways, and we should support and respect them to create a better community for everyone.

It is also crucial to remember that 1 in 6 males have been the subject of sexual abuse or assault. Although it affects women and girls more, it is an issue for everyone.

Consent and Respect:

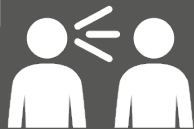


Consent means that both people agree to do something willingly and happily. It is about respecting each other's boundaries. For example, before touching someone or starting any romantic or sexual activity, you need to ask if they're okay with it and wait for their clear "yes".

No always means no.

It is important to understand that sexting can sometimes be a form of harassment. When you send or share explicit photos, it can make them feel violated, disrespected, and exposed. It is crucial to remember that sharing or pressuring someone for nudes is not okay and goes against their privacy and boundaries. Sharing nudes or indecent images of someone under 18, even if they are your own age or consenting, is a serious offense that can lead to legal consequences, including being investigated by the police, potential criminal charges, and being placed on the sex offenders' register. It is crucial to understand the gravity of this situation and to always respect the privacy and well-being of others by not engaging in the sharing of inappropriate images. If you come across such images, it's important to report them to a trusted adult or the appropriate authorities.

Recognising Harmful Behaviours:



Some things people do may contribute to sexual harassment without them realising it. Examples include repeatedly calling someone names, sharing explicit pictures without permission, or not taking “no” for an answer when someone says they don’t want to do something. It can be allowing your mates to harass a girl on campus or laughing if a friend cat calls a girl. If you stand by and watch or you join in from the sidelines, then you are part of the problem.

The Power of Words and Actions:



What we say and do matters. Even if you’re joking, some words and actions can hurt others. Making disrespectful jokes about someone’s body or making someone uncomfortable by pressuring them into something they don’t want to do is not okay.

Imagine if someone made fun of your appearance or kept pressuring you to do something you didn’t want to do. How would that make you feel? It’s important to think about how our words and actions affect others.

Speaking Out and Being an Ally:



If you see someone being harassed or know about it, it’s important to stand up against it. Be a good friend and support those who experience harassment. You can help create a safe environment by not taking part in or supporting inappropriate behaviour on our site.

If you need help, please tell a member of staff – your teacher, a member of the student services team or any other staff member in our college will be able to help.



Building Healthy Relationships:

Healthy relationships are built on respect, trust, and good communication. It means treating others as equals, listening to their feelings and boundaries, and supporting each other. It’s important to have relationships where both people feel safe and comfortable.

In a healthy relationship, both people would respect each other’s feelings and make sure they’re comfortable with any physical or sexual actions. They would communicate openly and support each other’s decisions.

No means no. Don’t push or bully for sex, forcing someone into something they don’t want is hurtful, harmful, and just plain nasty. It’s not what decent people do. It is also illegal, and the consequences are severe and life changing if you are convicted



Incels - What is the Meaning:

An incel is a term used to describe someone who is involuntarily celibate, meaning they’re unhappy about not having a romantic or sexual relationship. But here’s the thing: some incels develop a deep hatred towards women because they blame them for their own unhappiness.

That’s not right. Hating women or thinking they owe you something is completely wrong. Women, just like men, have their own dreams, choices, and feelings. We should respect and value them as equals.

Sexual harassment is never okay, whether at College or anywhere else. By treating others with respect, understanding how our actions affect them, and standing up against harassment, we can help create a safe and respectful community for everyone.



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