

Statistics on Sexual Abuse at School

- 1/3 of 16-18 year old girls say they have experienced unwanted sexual touching at school
- 59% of young women aged 13-21 say they had faced some form of sexual harassment at school or college in the past year
- 600 rapes in schools were reported to police between 2012 and 2015 – an average of a rape every day of the school year.
- Nearly three-quarters (71%) of all 16-18 year olds say they hear terms like “slut” or “slag” used towards girls at school on a regular basis
- 24% 16-18-year-olds say that their teachers never said unwanted sexual touching, sharing of sexual pictures or sexual name calling are unacceptable
- Sex and relationship education is still not compulsory in all schools and plans to introduce it give faith schools an opt-out

Making schools safe for girls – action schools can take now

Urgent changes are needed to the way schools prevent sexual harassment and abuse, and how they handle it when it does happen. This means they should:

- Introduce high quality, age appropriate sex and relationships education (SRE)
- Investigate what’s going on in the school – develop an understanding about sexual harassment and find out if sexual violence is happening
- Introduce a zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment, get staff training and review existing policies (including bullying and safeguarding) to ensure they include explicit reference to sexual harassment and abuse by peers
- Build links with local women and girls support services to help girls if they experience abuse
- Involve girls and boys in the schools’ ongoing response to abuse

<https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/campaign/metoo-at-school/>