



The Castle School

ACHIEVE | BELONG | PARTICIPATE

Information Evening for Parents & Carers

Tuesday 19th October 2021

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

#NotAtOurSchool



Mr Jamie Wordsworth

Deputy Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Sarah Sherring

*Assistant Headteacher & Social Emotional & Mental Health
(SEMH) Lead*

Mr Marshall Bernhardt

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)



What does #NotAtOurSchool truly mean for The Castle School?

- Every single member of our community celebrates difference and stands up for equality
- We treat each other with kindness and respect
- We show empathy towards others
- Nobody uses terms in their spoken language that are harmful, hurtful or discriminatory
- We do not believe in 'banter' – this idea that you can use terms within friendship groups and therefore it is acceptable



What does **#NotAtOurSchool** truly mean for The Castle School?

We have a zero tolerance approach to prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour. Suspension from school will be the consequence for individuals who breach our Behaviour Policy in this way.

Not at our school – we will not stand for it.

Our value of BELONG represents how we all feel about this.



Girlguiding Survey 2017 – over 1900 respondents, aged 7 to 21.

What percentage of respondents aged 13-17 said that:

- In the last week, they'd had their bra strap pulled by a boy?*
- In the last week, they'd had their skirt pulled up by a boy?*
- In the last year, they'd received unwanted sexual messages or images?*



Girlguiding Survey 2017 – over 1900 respondents, aged 7 to 21.

What percentage of respondents aged 13-17 said that:

- *In the last week, they'd had their bra strap pulled by a boy? **39%***
- *In the last week, they'd had their skirt pulled up by a boy? **27%***
- *In the last year, they'd received unwanted sexual messages or images? **31%**
(compared to 11% of male respondents in a comparative survey)*

A place for survivors to share their stories.

Everyone's Invited's mission is to expose and eradicate rape culture with empathy, compassion, and understanding.

54,046

Testimonies

97,600

In our community

What is rape culture?

When attitudes, behaviours and beliefs in society have the effect of normalising and trivialising sexual violence. This culture includes misogyny, rape jokes, sexual harassment, online sexual abuse (upskirting, non-consensual sharing of intimate photos, cyberflashing), and sexual coercion. When behaviours such as these are normalised this can act as a gateway to more extreme acts such as sexual assault and rape.



The concern around the level of sexual violence and sexual harassment in schools led to the government launching a review in the sexual abuse in schools at the end of March 2021.

Children have a right to grow up safe from abuse and harassment.

We will continue to develop a safe school ethos for young people to explore healthy relationships - there is a duty on schools to ensure they take action to keep young people safe.



Ofsted National Review into sexual abuse in schools - June 2021

The review included visits to 32 schools and colleges. In these, we spoke to over 900 children and young people about the prevalence of peer-on-peer sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, in their lives and the lives of their peers.

We also spoke to leaders, teachers, governors, LSPs, parents and stakeholders. Finally, we reviewed the extent to which inspection has given sufficient oversight of this issue and considered how statutory guidance could be strengthened.



Ofsted National Review into sexual abuse in schools - June 2021

This rapid review does not report on individual schools and colleges or cases, all of which remain anonymous. We made a number of visits to schools named on the Everyone's Invited website, as well as others not named. But this should not be assumed to be a fully representative sample of all schools and colleges nationally.



Ofsted National Review into sexual abuse in schools - June 2021

On our visits, girls told us that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, such as being sent unsolicited explicit sexual material and being pressured to send nude pictures ('nudes'), are much more prevalent than adults realise. For example, nearly 90% of girls, and nearly 50% of boys, said being sent explicit pictures or videos of things they did not want to see happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. Children and young people told us that sexual harassment occurs so frequently that it has become 'commonplace'. For example, 92% of girls, and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers. The frequency of these harmful sexual behaviours means that some children and young people consider them normal.



Ofsted National Review into sexual abuse in schools - June 2021

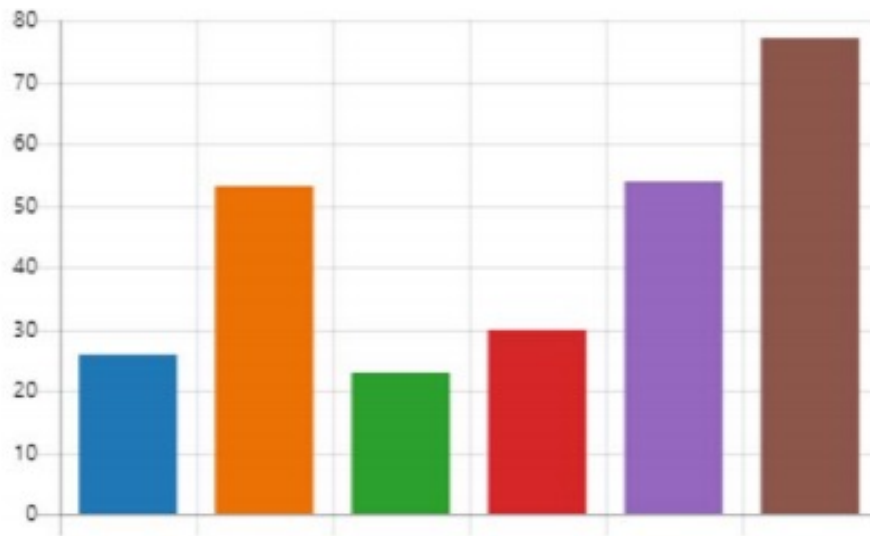
Children and young people, especially girls, told us that they do not want to talk about sexual abuse for several reasons, even where their school encourages them to. For example, the risk of being ostracised by peers or getting peers into trouble is not considered to be worth it for something perceived by children and young people to be commonplace. They worry about how adults will react, because they think they will not be believed, or that they will be blamed. They also think that once they talk to an adult, the process will be out of their control.



Student Surveys April 2021

We want to know if sexually harmful behaviour happens and, if so, how often this happens.
Sexist name calling

● Every day	26
● A few times a week	53
● Once a month	23
● Less than once a month	30
● Never	54
● Not sure	77

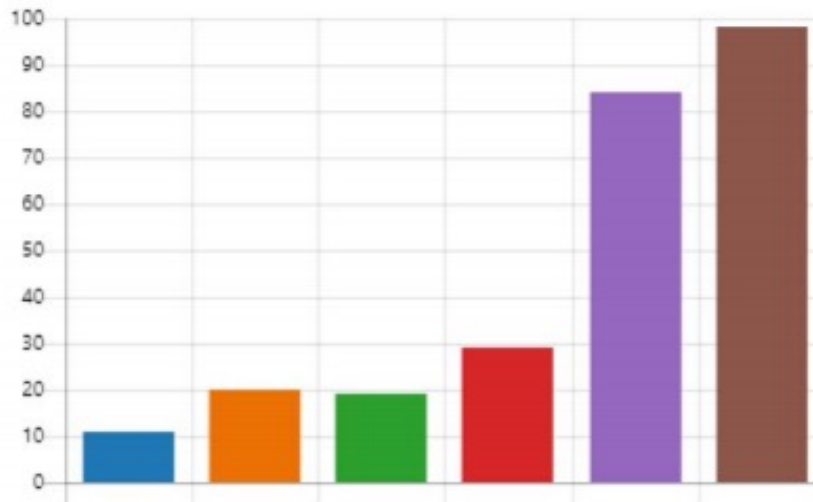




Student Surveys April 2021

We want to know if sexually harmful behaviour happens and, if so, how often this happens.
Sexual harrassment (unwanted or inappropriate sexual remarks)

Every day	11
A few times a week	20
Once a month	19
Less than once a month	29
Never	84
Not sure	98



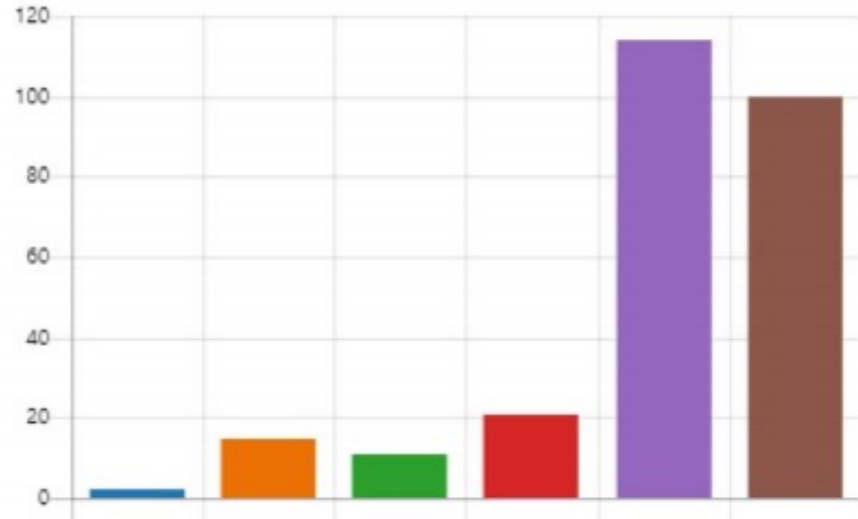


Student Surveys April 2021

We want to know if sexually harmful behaviour happens and, if so, how often this happens.

Unwanted touching

● Every day	2
● A few times a week	15
● Once a month	11
● Less than once a month	21
● Never	114
● Not sure	100





Next steps for us as a school back in June 2021:

- Speak with individuals who informed us of concerns in student surveys
- Whole year group assemblies about harmful sexual behaviour, including sharing our context and the national picture
- Specific, clear information for students to know what is not acceptable, with the launch of #NotAtOurSchool
- Signposting support avenues in school and out of school
- Undertaking a school review of harmful sexual behaviour, using an external toolkit (Beyond Referrals)
- Review and refine the PSHE and tutor time curriculum – working with students
- Empowering colleagues to teach, support and challenge effectively & consistently



Sexual violence as defined under the Sexual Offences Act 2003

Rape: A person (A) commits an offence of rape if: he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Assault by Penetration: A person (A) commits an offence if: s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

Sexual Assault: A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if: s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.



Sexual harassment: is a form of unlawful discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. The law says it's sexual harassment if the behaviour is either meant to, or has the effect of:

- violating your dignity, or
- creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment.

Sexual harassment can include:

- sexual comments or jokes
- physical behaviour, including unwelcome sexual advances, touching and various forms of sexual assault
- displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature
- sending emails or messages with a sexual content



Suggestions for parents & carers:

- Ensure you have a clear understanding of what sexual violence and sexual harassment are
- Ensure any prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour in any form is challenged
- Reflect on the messages you give out in your interactions with children, both directly and indirectly
- Have an open dialogue – positives and negatives
- Remember that children are less likely to disclose or talk about harmful sexual behaviour if they are not going to be believed, or may be blamed
- Speak with your children about devices often – restrict their access, limit their time, remove their devices at night
- Work with us as a school as you need and wish – community is vital



The Castle School

ACHIEVE | BELONG | PARTICIPATE

Information from a Police perspective – Marshall Bernhardt



Questions or further discussion

If you would like to contact us following this session, please telephone the Main Office (01823 274073) and one of us will get back to you.

Thank you for your time and support.