

**Carrying out surveys with parents**

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**Parent Survey Guidance**

This guidance forms part of the Beyond Referrals audit toolkit and should help schools audit their responses to harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). This guidance outlines one method that can help a school complete their beyond referrals audit – carrying out surveys with parents.

Speaking to parents is essential when trying to understand what is happening in your school and how you can improve your school’s response to harmful sexual behavior. The parent survey focuses on keeping young people safe from sexual bullying and other types of sexual harm within schools and it will ask questions about:

* Parent/Guardians relationship with the school
* What sexual harm parents might be aware of happening in school
* How well schools respond to these issues and how this could be improved.

We’ve put this guidance together to provide some helpful information about carrying out a parent survey in your school. The questions in the survey are provided as a basis to help inform the above - but you are welcome to adapt the questions in any way that you find useful to complete your beyond referrals audit.

**Who to involve**:

We’ve developed this survey for parents/guardians of secondary school children.

It is up to you which parents/carers you involve in the survey. In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of what is happening in your school we feel it would be beneficial to engage parents/carers with children in a range of year groups in the survey.

**The survey**

We have a paper version of the survey that you can download.

The survey will be anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

The survey will not be asking parents anything about their or their child/rens personal experiences. However, we appreciate that asking general questions about sexual harm happening in school may be potentially difficult for some parents. In the follow-up sheet, we have included a space where parents can contact a member of the pastoral support team for additional support.

You can send this survey electronically via email, along with the information sheet for parents to complete at home in their own time.

**Gaining consent**

If you have your own school protocols in relation to carrying out surveys then we are happy for you to follow these.

If you would like to follow our research protocols that we will be using to carry out the surveys then these are as follows:

* Each parent needs to give their own consent to take part, as we don’t want any parent taking part who doesn’t want to. We include a section at the beginning of the survey to obtain parent consent.
* We have included a leaflet you can give parents in advance of the survey that explains the reason for the survey and provides parents with information that will help them decide if they would like to take part.
* The purpose of the survey should be to assess the current situation in your school related to HSB and allow parents to feel comfortable to reflect on their views on the school responses to HSB. It is important therefore that the survey is confidential and anonymous.

**Why have I been given this leaflet?**

To tell you about a survey we are doing and help you decide if you want to take part.

**What is the survey about?**

The survey is about keeping young people safe from harm in schools such as sexual bullying and other types of sexual harm within schools.

We know that young people can experience sexual bullying, sexism, sexual violence or harassment in their relationships and friendships with other young people. We also know that this can sometimes happen within schools. We understand that when this happens, many young people don’t know how to get help and support, and sometimes the right help and support is not available.

The school’s involvement does not mean that they have any particular issues relating to sexual harm; it simply reflects their openness to learning about the potential for such harm and more effective ways of responding to this.

We want to find ways to make schools feel safer for young people and to make sure there is good support available if they experience sexual bullying or harm.

**Telling us what you think**

We would like to carry out a survey with parents to find out what they think about these issues. We would be talking about:

* Parent/Guardians relationship with the school
* What sexual harm parents might be aware of happening in school
* How well schools respond to these issues and how this could be improved

We will not be asking anyone about their personal experiences - just their thoughts on how things are at school.

The survey should take no longer than 20 minutes and is anonymous.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. It is totally up to you whether you want to take part. If you do take part it is also up to you what you tell us. We won’t ask you for personal information and you don’t have to answer any questions you don’t want to.

**What will you do with the information that I tell you?**

If you do take part we will store the information you provide in the survey very carefully.

We will use what you tell us to create resources for school and to improve the way schools keep young people safe. We won’t use your name or anything else that would let people know who took part.

**Are the things I tell you confidential?**

As the survey is anonymous we won’t know what individual parents have told us. If you want us to know and want to seek help you can provide contact details. We won’t tell anyone about what you tell usunless you say something that makes us worried about you or someone else being seriously harmed.

**I want to take part, what do I do now?**

Please complete the survey that has been provided.

**What if I change my mind about taking part?**

If you change your mind about taking part during the survey, that’s no problem – you can stop at any point. You can also ask us not to use what you’ve told and we’ll make sure we don’t use it.

**If you have any questions, you can talk to your child/ren’s teacher or staff name.**

Parent Survey information leaflet

‘Keeping young people safe from sexual harm in schools’

**Follow up information**

Thank you so much for taking part in our survey. It will really help us to understand how well the school responds to sexual harm and how this could be improved.

**What happens now?**

We will use what you and other parents have told us in your surveys to help improve the schools response to sexual harm.

**Support**

If you need extra support, or you would like to talk about anything more, you can:

* Speak to NAME OF SCHOOL SUPPORT
* **Contact NSPCC helpline**. You can call them free on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

**Thank you so much for your help today**