



## Safeguarding Newsletter

### Welcome to our Newsletter

#### *Why have a Newsletter?*

Safeguarding is such an important issue for our children and young people that we have decided to have a half termly newsletter that shares key information and advice with parents, staff and children. We know how important it is for us to work together with the same aim of keeping children safe in school, at home and in the wider community.

We are aware that students and parents sometimes wish to raise safeguarding concerns. Please contact us through [enquiries@shsb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@shsb.org.uk) if there is a general concern that you wish to share. Alternatively, if you wish to discuss a confidential safeguarding concern, please email the safeguarding team below directly at [safeguarding@shsb.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@shsb.org.uk)

### Our Designated Safeguarding Leads

Any safeguarding or child protection concerns **MUST** be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding is **EVERYONE'S** responsibility.

MRS R WORTH



Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

MR G MARCH



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

MR J BRANDON



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

MR NZEMEKE



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

MR C FOLEY



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

We have prepared key information (on the school website) for parents to access. This includes important documents and contact details. Please have a look at:

[www.shsb.org.uk](http://www.shsb.org.uk)

**Missed an issue?** All previous newsletters are available on our website under **Safeguarding**



In this issue we are focusing on

- harmful sexual behaviour
- sextortion

Click here for [Tips for parents - encouraging open conversations at home](#)

Click here for guidance on [how to talk to children about difficult topics](#)

Click here for [A Parental Guide to Protecting Your Child from Sextortion](#)

Click here for [The National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection \(CEOP\) Safety Centre](#)

Click [here](#) for the NCA letter to parents about financially motivated sexual extortion



# Harmful Sexual Behaviour

As caregivers, one of our greatest responsibilities is to ensure the safety and well-being of our children. While discussions about sexual behaviour can be uncomfortable, they are crucial for safeguarding our children from harm and promoting healthy development. In this newsletter, we'll explore harmful sexual behaviour in children, emphasising the importance of consent and monitoring technology use.

## What is Harmful Sexual Behaviour?

Harmful sexual behaviour refers to any sexual activity that is inappropriate for a child's age or developmental stage and can cause harm to themselves or others.

It's important to recognize that children may exhibit harmful sexual behaviour due to various factors, including exposure to inappropriate content, past trauma, or lack of understanding boundaries.

## Examples of Harmful Sexual Behaviour in schools:

- Sexist or homophobic name calling and bullying
- Sexual comments in person and on social media directed at students
- Rumours about other students' sexual activity
- Rating students: attractiveness or promiscuity or girls; masculinity or aggressive behaviour of boys.
- Controlling behaviour in relationships, including pressure from partners to share social media passwords and to take down images they didn't like
- Pressure to send sexual photos by another student – predominantly aimed at girls
- Sexual imagery shared on social media without consent. When asked which social media platform images were shared on, 42% of students who said that sexual imagery was shared on social media without consent cited Snapchat and 27% cited Instagram
- Inappropriate or unwanted touching or groping
- Pressure to perform sexual acts
- Sexual bullying, harassment and pressure
- Self-harm (as a result of sexual pictures being shared with other students)

## The Importance of Consent

- Consent is the cornerstone of healthy relationships, regardless of age.
- Teaching our children about consent empowers them to respect boundaries and make informed choices
- Emphasise the importance of asking for and respecting consent in all interactions, whether physical or digital
- Encourage open communication about feelings and boundaries, and model respectful behaviour in your own relationships





## Monitoring Technology Use

- In today's digital age, monitoring technology use is essential for protecting children from exposure to harmful content and online predators
- Keep an open dialogue about internet safety and set clear guidelines for acceptable online behaviour
- Utilise parental controls and monitoring software to limit access to inappropriate content and track online activity
- Regularly discuss online experiences with your child and be vigilant for any signs of concerning behaviour or interactions

## Support and Intervention

- If you suspect that your child is exhibiting harmful sexual behaviour, it's important to seek support and intervention promptly
- Consult with a trusted healthcare professional, therapist, or counsellor who specialises in child behaviour and development
- Approach the situation with empathy and understanding, recognising that addressing these issues requires patience and support



## Who to talk to in school?

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Worth – Deputy Headteacher

Each Key Stage has a further Designated Safeguarding Lead:

- Key Stage 3: Mr Brandon [KS3Admin@shsb.org.uk](mailto:KS3Admin@shsb.org.uk)
- Key Stage 4: Mr Nzemeke [KS4Admin@shsb.org.uk](mailto:KS4Admin@shsb.org.uk)
- Key Stage 5: Mr Foley [KS5Admin@shsb.org.uk](mailto:KS5Admin@shsb.org.uk)
- Inclusion and Support: Mr March [safeguarding@shsb.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@shsb.org.uk)



If you have any doubts or concerns about harmful sexual behaviour, or any other safeguarding issue, please contact the Safeguarding Lead in the relevant Key Stage in the first instance

**NSPCC**

The NSPCC provides support for parents on [how to talk to children about difficult topics](#)

[Tips for parents - encouraging open conversations at home](#)

The National Crime Agency have recently issued information and guidance to all parents/carers via schools to raise awareness of the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media as ‘sextortion’). Children and young people worldwide are being targeted.

This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card.

Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18.

A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image. Find out more about online blackmail on [CEOP Education’s parents and carers website](#).

This information has been emailed to all parents/carers and is on our website [here](#)

**What is sextortion and it’s risks?**

Sextortion is a severe form of online exploitation that primarily targets minors, although anyone can fall victim. Sextortion means extorting something valuable, such as money, sexual favours, or more explicit content, by threatening to expose the personal or sexual content of the victim. The perpetrators often hide behind the anonymity provided by the internet, making it difficult for law enforcement to track them down.

The risks associated with sextortion are high. The victims may experience emotional, psychological, and physical distress, leading to anxiety, depression, or even suicidal thoughts. It’s crucial to understand how sextortion occurs to prevent it effectively.



## Recognising the signs of sextortion

Sextortion typically begins innocently. A child might meet someone on a social media platform, or on a gaming platform. The relationship often starts as a regular interaction but gradually takes a dark turn toward sexual topics. The child may be coerced into sharing explicit images or videos, which are then used by the perpetrator as leverage to make demands.

Here are some of the signs of sextortion to look out for in your child:

- Unusual behaviour, such as excessive secrecy about online activities
- Sudden withdrawal from social activities
- Anxiety about losing access to digital devices
- Unexplained gifts, money, or online credits
- Emotional distress, including depression or suicidal thoughts



## Preventing sextortion

Education for parents and children is key. Be aware of the risks and signs and the best practices to prevent it.

Teach your child about the dangers of sharing personal or explicit content online, even with people they trust. They should know that once something is shared online, it might be impossible to remove it completely. They should also be aware of the potential consequences of sextortion, including emotional distress and public exposure.

Your child should feel comfortable sharing their online experiences with you without fear of punishment or judgment. If your child comes to you with a sextortion incident, remember that they are a victim and need your support.

If you discover your child is a victim of sextortion, you must take immediate action. Keep these tips in mind:

1. Don't respond to the perpetrator
2. Report the incident to the Police and [The National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection \(CEOP\) Safety Centre](#)
3. Preserve all communication with the perpetrator for evidence
4. Support your child emotionally and seek professional help if needed

By educating and empowering your child, establishing open communication, and implementing preventative measures, you can protect your child from sextortion and create a safer online environment for them.