Tackling Public Sexual Harassment in Schools

Scheme of Work

“I wouldn’t report it to anyone, just speak to my friends. This happened to me around 20 times over the course of school and I never reported it. I feel they would embarrass me and take it way too seriously, I don’t want that attention.”

Let’s end Public Sexual Harassment

www.ourstreetsnow.org
These are some ideas of how you can incorporate a lesson or half a lesson on public sexual harassment within the existing PSHEE curriculum (not limited to RSE). We hope you use these ideas as a springboard for your own lesson planning, however some resources have been signposted to help you. The list of resources is by no means comprehensive - we’d love it if you’d share your lesson resources and teaching materials with us at OSNSchools@outlook.com

The master deck slides can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Be9PFGAChp5ydXsuRAkkw9L6E3ht4yb-8Hg0H7kk/edit?usp=sharing

**Scheme of Work**

**PSHEE topics where Public Sexual Harassment can be incorporated into teaching**

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Dealing with emotions

When someone scares you, who can you talk to that will make you feel better?

What different things can we do to feel better after a bad day?

How does PSH affect our experiences of the following emotions: happiness, anger, guilt, sadness, confusion, empathy, fear?

Acknowledgement that traumatic events can lead to a series of contradictory emotions.

How can we deal with feeling differently about something after some time?

How can we deal with our feelings changing over time (e.g. initially ignoring PSH but then feeling upset triggered by it)?

What are healthy ways of processing events that can be traumatic and bring up intense emotions, such as PSH?

Communicating boundaries

How can you practice telling someone no?

If you think someone is not happy with how they are being treated, how can you support them?

Bystander safety: what are different ways we can respond to a situation where our boundaries are crossed? Why would we not always react in the same way?

How does it feel when our boundaries are not respected in cases of PSH?

Online safety

How can you keep safe online so that you do not interact with people you don't know?

What should you do if you are harassed online?

What steps can you take to make yourself safer online?

Why is online public sexual harassment just as hurtful as PSH in real life?

Why do you think people feel like they can say whatever they want online?

Master deck slide 16

PSHE association lessons on managing emotional wellbeing

Emotions after sexual assault

Unwanted attention

How can you identify when someone is being friendly and when they are giving you unwanted sexual attention?

Who can you talk to when you are receiving unwanted attention?

What social factors lead to people getting unwanted attention?

Drawing attention to gendered aspects of unwanted attention including the pressure on marginalised people to be safe rather than on perpetrator prevention.

How does receiving unwanted attention in public change depending on individual identities?

Bystander safety: if you see someone else receiving unwanted attention, what can you do in the moment and afterwards?

Democracy and the law

Why have people fought to change the law in history?

Is everything that should be illegal already in the law, or are there changes we still need to make?

What does the example of upskirting show us about how attitudes change laws?

Why should young people be involved in democracy and lawmaking?

Why would there be campaigns to change the law, and is it always fit for purpose?

If we want to change the law, how can we do it?

Do you think young people should have a clear platform where they can make their political views heard?

Society and social changes

How do different people feel when there are big changes in society?

Emphasising that societal change is gradual but big events can cause shifts.

Has society always been the same, and has it always had the same attitudes towards women?

Why do we sometimes need societal changes and how can these be achieved?

Why is PSH seen by some as one of the last remaining “acceptable” forms of sexual violence?

What are the best strategies for changing society and shifting people’s attitudes?

"I was walking home from school one day in my school uniform when a group of men started harassing me. When I told them I was 13, they said age did not matter to them."

“They definitely talked about not engaging with strangers, but there was no explanation of what sexual harassment is, more just advice about staying safe.”
Some agencies/organisations for planning:

1. **Amaze** - PSHE videos by topic (link is for personal safety)
2. **Amaze Jr** - Primary level RSE videos and planning ideas
3. **PSHE association framework** for planning RSE with SEND learners in mind
4. **Sex Education Forum brochure** on delivering RSE to pupils with SEND
5. **Think U Know** - educational game and resources helping young people understand online safety

Some agencies/organisations for signposting:

1. **Kooth** - chat forum allowing young people to discuss mental health and wellbeing with trained professionals
2. **Rape Crisis England and Wales** - help and support after sexual assault
3. **Imkaan** - UK-based organisation addressing violence against BAME women and girls
4. **Hollaback!** - organisation providing training and tips on being an active bystander to harassment and violence
5. **Stop Street Harassment** - global campaign documenting and campaigning to end gender-based street harassment
6. **Glitch** - charity raising awareness around online abuse, particularly online abuse of women and girls
7. **The Survivor’s Trust** - helpline and referral organisation for survivors of sexual assault and harassment
8. **Stay Safe East** - (London only) organisation supporting survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence
9. **Victim Support** - helpline and chat service for victims of crimes, you do not have to have spoken to the police to report an incident to them
10. **Tell MAMA** - organisation supporting those who have experienced Anti-Muslim abuse
11. **Survivors UK** - organisation for male/non-binary survivors of sexual assault
12. **Safeline** - helpline for men and boys in England and Wales affected by rape or sexual abuse and those that support them such as friends and family.
13. **The Proud Trust** - help and support for young people struggling with their sexuality