



Preparing for, Preventing and Managing Incidents Involving Online & Offline Violence

What can I do to help prevent harm on and offline?

- **Ensure you are familiar with safeguarding responsibilities, incident management processes and reporting procedures.** Be mindful that these rumours have the potential to trigger and re-traumatise survivors of real world violence and emotional support must be adequately signposted
- Remind the wider community where to go for help if they come across harmful content online
- Remind parents / carers to report any concerns they have about children and young people to the school
- Remind the community what other sources of emotional support are available to them if they are experiencing concerns
- Ensure school policies surrounding both on and offline behaviour are up to date by visiting swgfl.org.uk/resources/online-safety-policy-templates
- Ensure risk assessments, including those around digital technologies are up to date
- Remind staff, parents and pupils about behavioural and acceptable use policies in place and the establishments' expectations around behaviour
- Make use of anonymous reporting mechanisms to enable communities to have a safe space to speak out in confidence, without threat of harm

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- Be open to critical discussion around establishment culture. Ensure that underrepresented groups are consulted (e.g. when discussing an establishment approach to VAWG (Violence against women and girls), ensure female staff and students are involved and can help shape appropriate change)
- Take allegations of misconduct/ abuse seriously by following establishment procedure for investigating and reporting/ responding to incidents. Review our article about allegations of abuse or malpractice
- Respond to misogynistic and victim blaming rhetoric that perpetuates violence on and offline whilst addressing this in line with establishment policies, by re-framing the narrative to focus on perpetrator behaviour. The Welsh Violence Prevention Unit's Statement on Male Violence against Women is a great place to start

What about if something has already happened?

- If someone is at immediate risk of physical harm or being assaulted, contact the emergency services on 999. The police are the right people to respond to this
- If you or someone you're supporting has experienced sexual violence, contact Rape Crisis for further emotional support
- A reminder that duty of care to all who attend extends beyond the establishments gates and is about providing holistic support. As such, safeguarding processes need to be followed where there is negative impact or a potential to cause issues during school hours
- Ensure establishment incident management processes are followed and respond in accordance with relevant establishment guidance
- Report harmful content online at **reportharmfulcontent.com**
- If there's an online element and you're a professional working with young people, contact the **Professionals Online Safety Helpline** for further advice and support
- If you're supporting a young person under 18 who has had their nudes shared without consent, take a look at So You Got Naked Online
- If you're an adult who has experienced intimate image abuse (colloquially known as revenge porn), contact the **Revenge Porn Helpline**
- If you have experienced sexual harassment or abuse in education, contact the dedicated NSPCC Helpline
- If any of the discussions surrounding this topic have been triggering for you, there are people who can and will help. You can talk to your GP to source local support and/ or find other sources of support on our helpline websites

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