

Welcome to this week's SMRT safeguarding update...

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

International Women's day

At SMRT this week we are promoting International Women's Day on March 8th and are aiming to 'Accelerate Action' to promote gender equality. Below is an overview of the main themes of IWD.

As part of our approach of keeping women and girls safe, we have been promoting ways to stay safe and challenge unacceptable behaviour of others towards women. This has included assemblies, from the local police to KS4, that highlights the issues women and girls face and what we can do as a school and society to help address this. The PPT that was delivered is included below.

There is also a 'Walk and Talk' police support programme available for female students who may feel unsafe during their travel to and from school. The details are attached and can be arranged with our local policing team, if you feel this is something your child needs to reassure them as they travel in to SMRT.

International Women's Day

The IWD 2025 campaign theme is 'Accelerate Action'

Collectively, we can **Accelerate Action** for gender equality. Step forward in solidarity for International Women's Day (IWD) 2025 on March 8 to help **#AccelerateAction**.

At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, which is roughly five generations from now, to reach full gender parity, according to data from the World Economic Forum.

Focusing on the need to **Accelerate Action** emphasizes the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres.

So, together, let's **Accelerate Action** to speed up the rate of progress worldwide.

One of the best ways to forge gender equality is to understand what works and to do more of this, faster.

Accelerate Action is a worldwide call to acknowledge strategies, resources, and activity that positively impact women's advancement, and to support and elevate their implementation.

Significant barriers to gender equality remain, yet with the right action and support, positive progress can be made for women everywhere.



Violence against Woman and Girls

Statistics

58% of girls aged 14-21 in the UK have been publicly sexually harassed in their learning environment.

92% of girls, and 74% of boys, said sexist name-calling happens a lot or sometimes to them or their peers.

22% of young girls aged 7-12 have experienced jokes of a sexual nature from boys.

71% of all 16-18-year-olds (boys and girls) say they hear sexual name-calling with terms such as "slut" or "slag" used towards girls at schools on a daily basis or a few times a week.

28% of 16-18-year-olds (boys and girl) say they have seen sexual pictures on mobile phones at school a few times a month or more.

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.



CARING



COURAGEOUS



INCLUSIVE



LEARNING

Have a think and a word.....



<https://youtu.be/qbk3iJqmiNU>

- How does this make you feel?
- Would you stand up to you friends?
- How do you think the girl in the film is feeling?

The 5 D's

DELEGATE - Involve others. Is it safe or appropriate to step in, see if someone else can intervene for you or with you. Who could this be?

DISTRACT - Interrupt the incident. Simple actions may help. Just be aware that in some situations your intervention could cause more distress – so make your intentions clear and take the hint if they don't want your help.

DIRECT ACT - If it's safe to do this, you can step in and say something that directly calls out the abusive behaviour. It's best to make clear, calm statements that don't open the situation up for debate or argument.

Always think carefully before taking direct action as it can cause a situation to escalate.



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The 5 D's

DELAY - If you think it's not safe or appropriate to challenge the situation there and then, it may be best to wait until it has passed. Ask them if they want your help to [get support](#) or report the abuse.

DOCUMENT - Used alongside the other Ds, this technique can help to support and empower the person experiencing abuse and help you to be a witness. Always check that it's safe and appropriate for you to document the incident. If you take a video of abusive behaviour, ask the victim what they want to do with it before sharing it with anyone else.



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Is it against the law?

It's important to remember that young people are dealt with **VERY** differently under the law.

- **Coercive Control**

The law classifies coercive control as a form of domestic abuse – maximum 5 years imprisonment a fine and or both.

- **Up-skirting**

The law classifies this as a criminal offence - maximum 2 year prison sentence.

- **Sharing sexual images**

Maximum 2 years imprisonment.



As always, if you have any immediate concerns about safeguarding issues, students, or the school site, please get in touch via:

safeguarding@smrt.bristol.sch.uk