

Welcome to this week's SMRT Safeguarding Update...

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

In this edition we focus on International Women's Day.

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.

The IWD 2026 **Give To Gain** Campaign encourages a mindset of generosity and collaboration.

Give To Gain emphasizes the power of reciprocity and support. When people, organisations, and communities give generously, opportunities and support for women increase. Giving is not a subtraction, it's intentional multiplication. When women thrive, we all rise.

Whether through donations, knowledge, resources, infrastructure, visibility, advocacy, education, training, mentoring, or time, contributing to women's advancement helps create a more supportive and interconnected world.

What will you **Give to Gain** gender equality?

In Bristol, 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 below and can be arranged with our local policing team, if you feel this is something your child needs to reassure them as they travel into SMRT.

International Women's Day

At SMRT, there will be a series of assemblies delivered to all students celebrating the role of women in society, with a focus on successful women on both a national and local scale.

We also have visiting STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Maths) speakers, working with Ms Cottell and y11 on Friday, to debate these areas and give students the opportunity to speak with and question successful business women about these topics.

In our VIP lessons, we are examining the effects of coercion and control in relationships, how to spot the signs, the support that is available and where the law can be used to stop abuse continuing.

The government have also issued new RSHE guidance regarding relationships and what schools should be teaching young people about healthy relationships. Guidance regarding this and misogynistic behaviour is explained well here: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/07/new-rshe-guidance-what-parents-need-to-know/>

At SMRT, the police also run annual VAWG assemblies and workshops with students that focus on how women should be treated and what signs of coercion there are in young people's relationships. Below is the PPT content that has been delivered to students this academic year by the police.



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

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.



Could you tell if your child was being **exploited**?



Join one of our free online sessions led by Child Exploitation Prevention Officer **Andri Nicolaou**

18 March 7:00 - 8:30pm

30 March 10:30am - 12:00pm

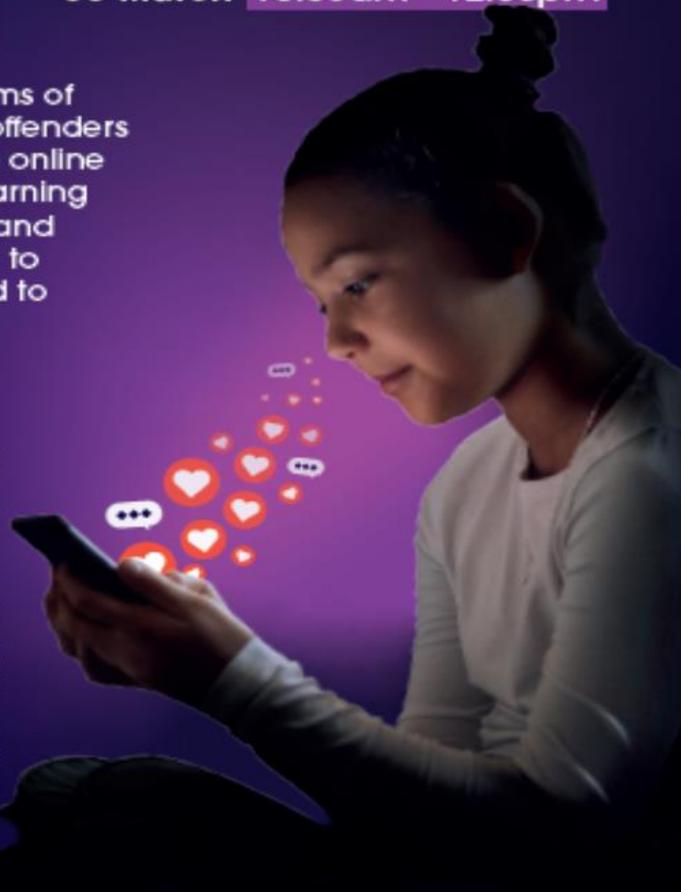
Learn about the different forms of child exploitation and how offenders groom/exploit children both online and offline. We'll highlight warning signs a child may be at risk and practical steps you can take to keep them safe and respond to any concerns.

Visit the **Avon and Somerset Police Eventbrite page** or scan the QR codes below

18 March



30 March



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