

schools consent project

One in every three women experience sexual violence during their lifetime¹

Nearly **90% of girls** have been sent unwanted sexually explicit images/videos²

Young people say that sexual harassment occurs so frequently that it is **'common place'**³

Something has to change



Who are we?

Established by a criminal barrister from London, the **Schools Consent Project (SCP)** is a charity which sends lawyers and postgraduate law students into schools across the country to teach young people about consent and various sexual offences.



What do we do?

We deliver hour-long workshops to 11-18-year-olds on the legal definition of consent, how to identify consent, bystander intervention, the offences of rape, sexual assault and 'sexting', the ages of consent, responding to disclosures and ways to obtain help.

The workshop is delivered through a series of fun, interactive games and exercises aimed at gently challenging the students' misconceptions and bringing about safer, healthier interactions from the grassroots up.

By adopting a legal approach, we are able to address subjects that can otherwise feel challenging, sensitive or simply taboo. Our workshops give young people agency, enabling them to fully understand the law around sex and consent in order to make informed and sensible decisions.

Each workshop is delivered to a maximum of 35 students.

How are we different to other providers?

1 We know what we're doing. In the past 8 years, we have successfully delivered our workshop to over 40,000 young people, including at:

- The American School
- Charterhouse
- Colchester Royal Grammar School
- Dartford Grammar School
- Epsom College
- Eton College
- Godolphin & Latymer
- Henrietta Barnett School
- King's College Schools (Wimbledon)
- Kingston Grammar School
- Marlborough College
- St Thomas Rich's
- St Helen & St Katharine
- Tonbridge Grammar
- Westminster School
- Whitgift School.

2 We're lawyer-led. We bring our professional experience into the classrooms and respond to students' questions with accuracy and authority.

3 We are the only organisation of its kind that provides legal education to school-age children. We believe that these conversations ought to be happening at a young age for there to be real and lasting change.

Aims

We aim to normalise conversations about consent. We believe that education is the surest preventative against sexually abusive behaviour in later life. We want to give young people a legal toolkit to change the culture in schools, universities and workplaces and to drive down sexual offending rates.

Sequenced, spiral curriculum

Our strong belief, now supported by the Department of Education's **statutory guidance** on relationships and sex education, is that consent conversations should be more than a one-off talk that are quickly forgotten.

We offer a full through-school consent curriculum which is a sequenced, spiral programme of workshops that can be tailored to schools' and students' requirements. This allows for:

- schools to choose from a range of content
- curated workshops for an individual year group to build on prior learning
- facilitation of regular, peer-led conversations to support the school's wider culture

Year group specific workshops

Each workshop focuses on a different topic that is age appropriate, and developmentally relevant to a specific year group, whilst reinforcing certain fundamentals year-on-year to support students' retention of these key messages.

Every workshop begins with a recap of the basics of consent and our key messages. Each workshop also includes information on specific sexual and communication offences.

The year group specific approach includes:

- Year 7:** Personal boundaries; opening up conversations
- Year 8:** Sharing nudes sexting
- Year 9:** Behaviour in and around school
- Year 10:** More intimate relationships including in the context of parties/alcohol



Year 11: House parties, communication in more serious or longer-term relationships

Year 12: Preparing for university/work life; abuse in the context of longer term relationships

Year 13: Adult life/university, conduct in the workplace, image-based harassment, where to go for help as an adult

We are able to further tailor the existing suite of workshops to address any school-specific concerns.

Parent seminars

We regularly speak with parents to enable them to support these discussions at home and ensure they feel properly informed about the content of our workshops. This also allows parents to feel confident about how the school is meeting (and exceeding) the regulatory requirements in delivering consent education. Consent education has the greatest impact when everyone is involved in the conversation.

Teacher feedback

Our impact is evident in the feedback from our teachers:



“ I have sat in on this morning session for Year 10 and Alex’s delivery was FANTASTIC! I actually think its really powerful for the girls to hear this information from a male figure and I really appreciate having him talk to the students today.

Teacher, Burgess Hill Girls School, Sussex

“ I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to you for how brilliant Abi and Imogen were yesterday. Their professionalism and confidence in responding to questions and discussion points was outstanding... the after care provided by you and your team really is excellent and displays such a thoughtful and considerate approach which goes far above and beyond other external providers.

Teacher, Ermysted’s Grammar School, North Yorkshire

“ When one of the leading lights of our school rugby team gave his answer towards the end of a workshop with a volunteer from the Schools Consent Project, I knew that it had been a success with our students, and my school has been working with the SCP now for four years to ensure that all of our students have a really good understanding of the issues surrounding consent and sex. The discussion of real-life examples, led by someone who is not their teacher and who is also an expert on the legalities of these scenarios, helps students to be more open and honest in their responses, and to ensure that all have a chance to fully participate.’

Deputy Headteacher, St Benedict’s School

“ I just want to pass on thanks on behalf of the pupils who participated in the seminar yesterday. The pupils were ‘buzzing’ after the sessions and I feel confident that they are much better informed about consent and hopefully therefore more empowered.

Teacher, The Queen’s School, Chester

“ I would like to say thanks for organising such amazing sessions for us. All of your facilitators were so engaging, so credible and very skilfully delivered the content, handling the difficult questions brilliantly. I am so happy that we have now been able to get all of our Year 12 students to access these sessions and they are much better off for having done so.

Teacher, St Bonaventure’s School, London

“ Our students have been working with The Schools Consent Project for a number of years and I cannot recommend it too highly. The speakers engage with their audiences in a way which is genuinely appreciated by our young people and are sufficiently knowledgeable and confident to provide responses to the most difficult of questions. The undoubted success of the Project can be measured by the extremely positive feedback received from the students. I have no doubt that it has a positive impact on their attitudes and behaviour.’

Headteacher, King Edward VI School

Student feedback

Our impact is evident in the feedback from our students:

“ I liked the wide range of teaching methods to learn the information (role-playing scenarios, our responses to scenarios, the interactive group waving activity, power-point/ written information, spoken information, questions etc), as I found this engaging and allowed for everyone to get involved in the different areas. The information [the presenter] taught us was clear, and she used clever techniques involving repetition and acronyms to help the information we learnt stay with us. I especially enjoyed the style of teaching involving scenarios and found it useful to put the ideas we had learnt into perspective.

Year 12 student

“ An engaging project and the use of “games” made it able to sustain student interest and interaction, and made a daunting topic approachable.

Year 12 student



“ 10/10 - would 100% recommend to other teens. Loved it, enlightened.

Year 10 student

“ It's a shame that the Schools Consent Project workshop is necessary in the first place, you'd be forgiven for assuming the concepts of consent go without saying... but unfortunately for some people, they don't. I'd recommend the Project to other schools if I were in a position to do so.

Sixth Form student

“ A very informative and necessary session, delivered in an effective way.

Year 12 student

“ Very informative and helpful, also very easy to digest the information.

Sixth Form student



We also routinely observe a 'spike' in disclosures in the wake of our workshop, proving that our work is key to starting this important conversation in schools.