

Sexual Exploitation, Consent and the Law

Age Range:

13+, Years 9 +,
KS 3, KS 4

Programmes to use with:

Working for Marcus

Topics Covered:

Knowledge on the legal aspects of sexual exploitation and consent

Time:

20 - 40 minutes

Equipment needed:

Copies of the 'Sexual Exploitation, Consent and the Law' quiz and answers.

Learning Outcomes:

- Young people have an increased awareness of sexual exploitation and abuse of power and control in relationships.
- Young people have an increased ability to identify when there is exploitation or abuse of power or control in a relationship.
- Young people have increased knowledge of the physical, emotional and financial implications of sexual exploitation.

The key concepts for PSHE education in personal wellbeing for Working for Marcus are:

- personal identities
- healthy lifestyles
- risk
- relationships

An exercise to look at the legal position around sexual exploitation and consent and how this affects young people's decisions.

Introduction

This exercise uses team work and reflective learning to increase knowledge of the legal situation on sexual exploitation and increase knowledge of the laws on sexual consent. This works well as a follow up session to Loudmouth's theatre in education programme 'Working for Marcus.'

Exercise

Hand out copies of the 'Sexual Exploitation, Consent and The Law' quiz found on the next page. This contains ten questions with true or false answers to help the group to understand some of the basic facts on how the law relates to sexual activity. The answers are supplied below.

The quiz can be done as a worksheet but can be more fun in teams. Teams can swap papers to mark at the end.

After the quiz ask the group to recap on the main facts they learned from the activity.

Summary

Sum up by asking the group to recap on the main laws they have learned about sexual consent and the statistics around sexual exploitation. Ask the group what people could do if they were experiencing sexual exploitation and who they could go to for advice and support on the issue.

You could continue work on the legal aspects by using the quiz 'Sex and the Law' which can be downloaded from the Loudmouth website. This looks more at the facts around the age of consent for mixed sex and same sex relationships.

Sexual Exploitation, Consent and the Law Quiz

Please mark whether you think each statement is true or false.

1. Prostitution is illegal in the UK.

TRUE / FALSE

2. There are estimated to be around 500 prostitutes under the age of 18 in the UK.

TRUE / FALSE

3. Touching someone through their clothes still counts as sexual assault.

TRUE / FALSE

4. Teenage lads can be victims of sexual exploitation.

TRUE / FALSE

5. Girls with older partners are more likely to be victims of physical or sexual violence.

TRUE / FALSE

6. There is currently no law that prevents a pimp from earning money through sexual exploiting others.

TRUE / FALSE

7. A young person aged under 13 years old cannot give consent to sex.

TRUE / FALSE

8. If someone was drunk when they sexually assaulted another person then this wouldn't count and they could escape prosecution.

TRUE / FALSE

9. The maximum sentence for sexual grooming in the UK is 10 years.

TRUE / FALSE

10. The maximum sentence for rape is a fine and 12 month prison sentence.

TRUE / FALSE

Sexual Exploitation, Consent and the Law

Quiz (Answers)

1. Prostitution is illegal in the UK.

FALSE - The laws around prostitution in England and Wales are far from straight-forward. The act of prostitution is not in itself illegal - but a string of laws criminalises activities around it are. Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence to cause or incite prostitution or control it for personal gain.

2. There are estimated to be around 500 prostitutes under the age of 18 in the UK.

FALSE - A survey by Save the Children says that there are 5000 prostitutes under the age of 18 in the UK.

3. Touching someone through their clothes still counts as sexual assault.

TRUE - Touching someone through their clothes can still be seen as a sexual assault offence if the person they are touching has not given consent. The law states that it is an offence if a person 'intentionally touches another person without reasonable belief that they consented. Touching covers all physical contact including through clothing.' This includes acts such as grabbing someone's breasts or backside without their consent, something which can happen in a lot of school corridors! Does this happen in your school / centre?

4. Teenage lads can be victims of sexual exploitation

TRUE – Although most children who are sexually exploited are female, Save the Children estimate that 25% of prostitutes under the age of 18 are male. Male sex workers may have sex with men for money, drugs or shelter but may not identify themselves as being gay.

5. Girls with older partners are more likely to be victims of physical or sexual violence.

TRUE - Girls with older partners are much more likely to be victims of Teenage Partner Abuse. In the NSPCC study, **all** of the girls they interviewed who had a partner who was at least two years older, had experienced some form of violence. All acts of severe physical and sexual violence were instigated by older partners.

6. There is currently no law that prevents a pimp from earning money through sexual exploiting others.

FALSE - pimping is illegal. The Sexual Offences Act, 2003 states in simple terms that "it is an offence to cause or incite prostitution or control it for personal gain". This means that it is illegal to advertise sexual services or to live off money earned through prostitution.

7. A young person aged under 13 years old cannot give consent to sex.

TRUE – The Sexual Offences Act 2003 also makes it clear that no child under 13 years of age can ever consent to sexual activity. This means that sex with a child under 13 years automatically is classified as rape and carries with it a maximum life sentence.

8. If someone was drunk when they sexually assaulted another person then this wouldn't count and they could escape prosecution.

FALSE - Being drunk is not an excuse that would be accepted in court. No matter how drunk the person committing the assault was it would still be an assault. If the other person did not give consent then it is a sexual assault. The legal definition of consent is if a person 'agrees by choice and has the freedom and capacity to make that choice.'

9. The maximum sentence for sexual grooming in the UK is 10 years

TRUE – The Sexual Offences Act 2003 made grooming a child for sexual activity illegal even if no meeting took place. If an adult tried to groom a child online they could still be prosecuted for sexual grooming even if they never met face to face and no sexual assault took place.

10. The maximum sentence for rape is a fine and 12 month prison sentence.

FALSE- The maximum sentence for rape is actually life imprisonment. Sentence lengths vary depending on the case but a person convicted of rape could face a life in prison.