

What to do now?

If you have identified some **AMBER** or **RED** behaviours, try not to panic. There are many reasons why a child may be showing these behaviours. The most important thing is to keep calm, and to talk to a trusted professional about your concerns., i.e your school nurse.

They will be able to support you to respond appropriately to the behaviours, and work with you and your child to resolve any issues that may arise.



Please visit the websites below for further information on developmentally appropriate sexual behaviours and how to respond;

www.brook.org.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.barnardos.org.uk

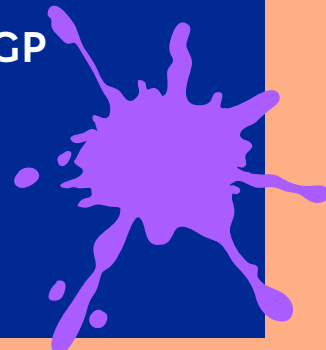
www.stopitnow.org.uk

If you are concerned about your child or someone else's behaviors, please contact;

Your School Nurse

The child's teacher

Your GP



Understanding Healthy Sexual Behaviours

A parents / carers guide to understanding healthy sexual language and behaviours for children

13 - 15 YEARS



Appropriate behaviours for children aged 13 - 15 years are also known as green behaviours. These behaviours reflect safe and healthy sexual development.

They are normally displayed between children or young people of similar age or developmental ability, reflective of natural curiosity, experimentation, consensual activities and positive choices.

Some GREEN behaviours are;

- Private masturbation
- Use of sexual language including swear and slang words
- Having girl/boyfriends who are of the same, opposite or any gender
- Interest in popular culture, e.g. fashion, music, media, online games, chatting online
- The need for privacy
- Consensual kissing, hugging, holding hands with peer

Amber behaviours have the potential to be outside of safe and healthy behaviour.

They may be: unusual for that particular child or young person, or of potential concern due to age, or developmental differences. They may also raise potential concern due to activity type, frequency, duration or context in which they occur.

Some AMBER behaviours are;

- Uncharacteristic and risk-related behaviour, e.g. sudden and/or provocative changes in dress, withdrawal from friends, mixing with new or older people, having more or less money than usual, going missing
- Verbal, physical or cyber/virtual sexual bullying involving sexual aggression
- LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) targeted bullying
- Exhibitionism, e.g. flashing or mooning
- Giving out contact details online
- Viewing pornographic material
- Worrying about being pregnant or having STIs

Red behaviours are outside of safe and healthy behaviour

Red behaviours may involve excessive, secretive, compulsive, coercive, degrading or threatening actions, will involve significant age, developmental, or power differences. Frequency, duration and the context of the behaviour also needs to be considered.

Some RED behaviours are;

- Exposing genitals or masturbating in public
- Sharing naked or sexually provocative images of self or others
- Sexually explicit talk with younger children
- Sexual harassment
- Arranging to meet with an online acquaintance in secret
- Genital injury to self or others
- Forcing other children of same age, younger or less able to take part in sexual activities
- Sexual activity e.g. oral sex or intercourse
- Having a sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- Evidence of pregnancy