

'Sexual Behaviour and the Law: What is and isn't ok?'

**Year 10 School Workshops
July 2021**

Facilitators:

Jackie Citron (Young People's Service Coordinator, Circles South West)

Jonny Beavis (Assistant Psychologist, Bristol Be Safe Service).



'There was no pressure to talk'

'I liked the friendliness and the safe open atmosphere'

'No one was judging your opinion'

'I liked learning about the law'

Workshop Overview

In May 2021, a South West School contacted Circles South West requesting delivery of a series of educational workshops in relation to sex and the law for all boys in year 10.

This request was prompted by reports made by a number of female students that boys in their year were engaging in comments and behaviours that were sexually inappropriate / abusive. Circles South West agreed to deliver the workshops in collaboration with the Bristol Be Safe Service.

Circles South West proposed a series of workshops – one for male students, one for female students and then a further session where all genders could come together at the end. Due to budgetary restrictions, the school were only able to purchase 4 x 1 hour workshops to deliver to all the male students in year 10. A workshop plan was drafted as follows:

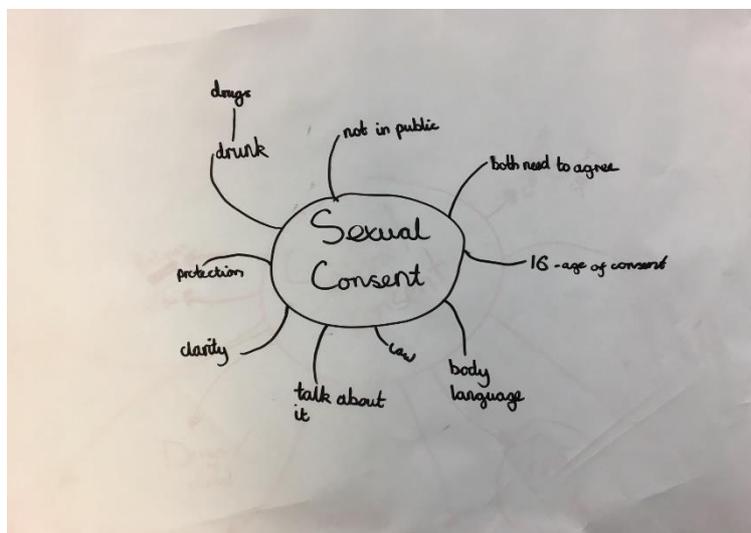
1. Introductions
2. Sexual consent – what is it? / mindmaps
3. Consequences of no consent (legal etc)
4. Online safety / impact of social media
5. Pornography – what is it? What are the risks?
6. What you can do to support female students

In July 2021 Jackie Citron (Young People's Service Coordinator) and Jonny Beavis (Assistant Psychologist) went into the school and delivered 4 x 1 hour workshops to year 10 boys over two days (two workshops per day).

The workshops were delivered in a drama room within the school and were supported by two members of school staff; the Head of House and the Wellbeing Worker. The boys were asked to complete a feedback form after each workshop and the staff were also invited to complete their own feedback to inform the development of future workshops and services.

The total number of boys who completed the workshops is not known (not all students handed in feedback forms) however there were between 20-25 students in each workshop so approximately 80-100 students received the workshops in total.

Workshops 1 & 2 took place on 1st July 2021 and workshops 3 & 4 were delivered on 8th July 2021. The feedback from each of these workshops is detailed below.



Workshop 1

- **35%** students mentioned a feeling of ‘**safety**’ or ‘**comfort**’ whilst completing the session.
- **66%** students wished they had more opportunity to ‘**discuss with mates**’ during the session.
- **56%** answered that the most memorable new thing they learned during the session was the **age of imprisonment**.
- **53%** students said they would remember to ‘**call people out**’ in the future if they sense inappropriate sexual behaviour.

One thing you liked:

<i>How everyone knew what was good and what was bad.</i>	<i>Doing the mind map</i>
<i>Doing the mind map on the table</i>	<i>Doing mindmap on ideas about consent</i>
<i>How comfortable it felt to talk about it</i>	<i>The session was informative</i>
<i>Drawing the mind map to see what we knew</i>	<i>How comfortable it felt talking about things</i>
<i>Going into depth about serious issues and feeling safe to talk about it</i>	<i>Open and was able to have a conversation about what going to do and being to write ideas down</i>
<i>Open session</i>	<i>Open information and conversation</i>
<i>Open conversations</i>	<i>Everyone was very open</i>
<i>How comfortable I felt talking about sexual behaviour with Jackie and Jonny</i>	<i>Going into depth because we don't like talk about it in school</i>
<i>The safety in the room</i>	<i>The safety in the room</i>

One thing you didn't like:

<i>There was nothing I disliked</i>	<i>The pressure that was in the room</i>
<i>More discussion with mates</i>	<i>More discussion based</i>
<i>Couldn't communicate much</i>	
<i>You couldn't talk to mates about it in lesson</i>	

One thing you learned (something new):

<i>You can get sent to prison at the age of 10</i>	<i>What a register is</i>
<i>You can be arrested age 10</i>	<i>About the sex register</i>
<i>Children can be put on the sex offender register</i>	<i>Age of consent</i>
<i>Your age to get in prison (10)</i>	<i>You can be prosecuted from 10 upwards</i>
<i>The different consequences – for example you can get sent to prison age 10</i>	<i>Not many children are put on the sex offender register</i>
<i>Sex register</i>	<i>About the age you can go to prison</i>
<i>The average age for first seeing porn is 11</i>	<i>That the legal age of a person going to prison is 10</i>
<i>You need to call out sexual assault</i>	<i>The age of imprisonment is 10</i>

One thing you'll do differently now:

<i>Think about what I do online</i>	<i>Think about what I see online</i>
<i>Call out people</i>	<i>Call things out</i>
<i>Think about what I see online</i>	<i>Be careful</i>
<i>Call people out</i>	<i>Look out for things that might be wrong</i>
<i>Call out people if I see something inappropriate</i>	<i>Be more careful</i>
<i>I will make sure I stand up for people</i>	<i>Call people out</i>
<i>How I view people if they have committed an offence</i>	<i>Call people out</i>
<i>Look out for sexual assault and call it out</i>	

Anything we should add:

<i>More about young relationships</i>	
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Workshop 2

- **41%** of the students described their favourite aspect of the session was being able to **discuss the issues together**.
- **37%** of the students wished that the subject was taken more **seriously**.
- **54%** of the students answered that the most memorable thing they learned during the session were issues regarding **sharing photographs**.
- **50%** of the students said they would be **avoiding pornography** in the future because of the session.

One thing you liked:

<i>Learning about stuff</i>	<i>Discussion</i>
<i>Learning about the right and wrong</i>	<i>People opened up/lots of questions</i>
<i>Paper</i>	<i>The piece of paper</i>
<i>Safe environment</i>	<i>No one was judging your opinion</i>
<i>Opinions were allowed to be said</i>	<i>The mind map</i>
<i>The discussions</i>	<i>People really opened up</i>
<i>People were good and they didn't make it awkward but were serious</i>	<i>The discussions</i>
<i>Information</i>	<i>Learning and understanding about sexual consent</i>
<i>The information given to us</i>	

One thing you didn't like:

<i>Nothing (x 4)</i>	<i>I didn't dislike anything</i>
<i>Maybe took things too light</i>	<i>People making jokes</i>
<i>Talking</i>	<i>Free speech</i>
<i>Maybe took things too lightly</i>	<i>Felt confronting</i>

One thing you learned (something new):

<i>16 is the minimum limit for consent</i>	<i>Nude photos are illegal and you can be prosecuted</i>
<i>Laws on sharing photos</i>	<i>Laws on photos between people</i>
<i>Nothing</i>	<i>Porn isn't real</i>
<i>Two drunk people can both cause an offence</i>	<i>2 drunk people can get done for sexual assault</i>
<i>Pictorial content</i>	<i>Nude photos are illegal when someone is 18 and someone is 16</i>
<i>Nude photos are wrong</i>	

One thing you'll do differently now:

<i>Not watch pornos</i>	<i>Not watch porn</i>
<i>Intervene more</i>	<i>Nothing</i>
<i>Stop watching porn</i>	<i>Ask more</i>
<i>Stand up for someone, no nudey pics</i>	<i>Look out for any inappropriate behaviour</i>
<i>Not watch porn understand it is not very realistic</i>	<i>Stop watching porn</i>

Anything we should add:

<i>Bigger tables</i>	<i>Nothing (x 6)</i>
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Workshop 3

- **48%** of the students answered that they especially enjoyed **learning new things**, particularly about the law.
- **50%** of the students wish that the group was **smaller** or **more involved**.
- **38%** felt the most memorable parts of the session were about sexual behaviours **online**.
- **55%** of the students reported an intention to be more aware of and **report inappropriate sexual behaviour** in the future because of the session.

One thing you liked:

<i>Info about consent</i>	<i>Getting more of an insight</i>
<i>Honest</i>	<i>The things I learned</i>
<i>I liked learning about the law</i>	<i>The information/reassurance</i>
<i>I liked being informed about the law</i>	<i>Honest</i>
<i>I liked learning about what's right and wrong</i>	<i>All the facts</i>
<i>There was no pressure to talk</i>	<i>You weren't obliged to say anything</i>
<i>Getting a further understanding of the law</i>	<i>Learning about the law</i>
<i>Learning</i>	<i>Kind people talking</i>
<i>It was quite open</i>	<i>Getting a fuller understanding of the law</i>
<i>How open the teachers were</i>	<i>The in depth explanation on conviction</i>
<i>Info about consent</i>	

One thing you didn't like:

<i>Nothing</i>	<i>Nothing it was all good</i>
<i>Kind of awkward</i>	<i>Too much of a large group</i>
<i>Didn't go into detail about online things</i>	<i>Too many people</i>
<i>It didn't go into depth about online</i>	<i>Someone snitched on COD lobbys</i>
<i>Talking about sex</i>	<i>Most weren't involved and I feel like the girls were taught something different</i>
<i>Too many people</i>	<i>How most people didn't get involved</i>
<i>Nothing</i>	

One thing you learned (something new):

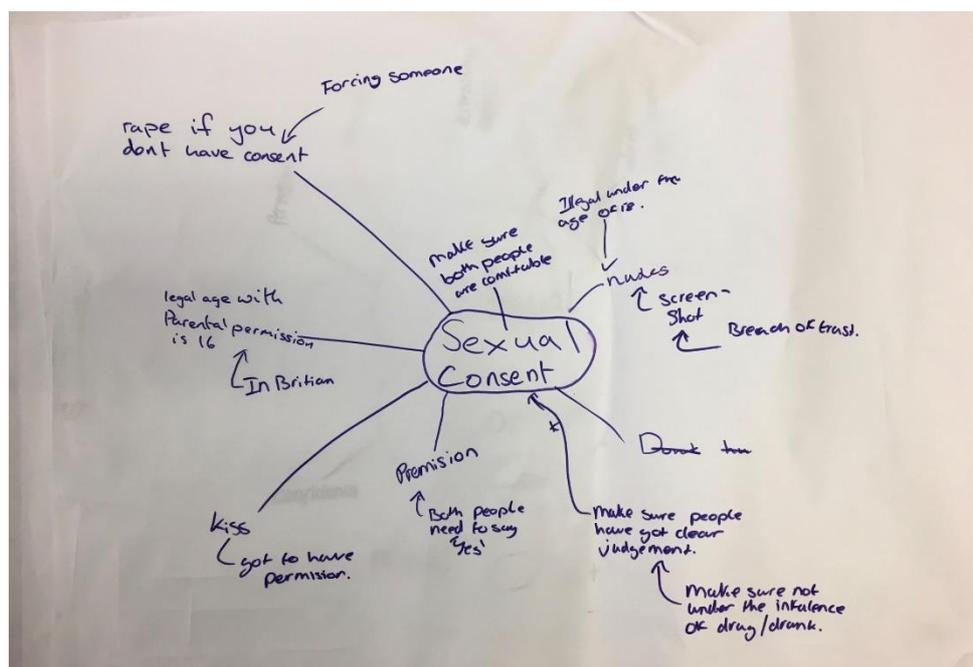
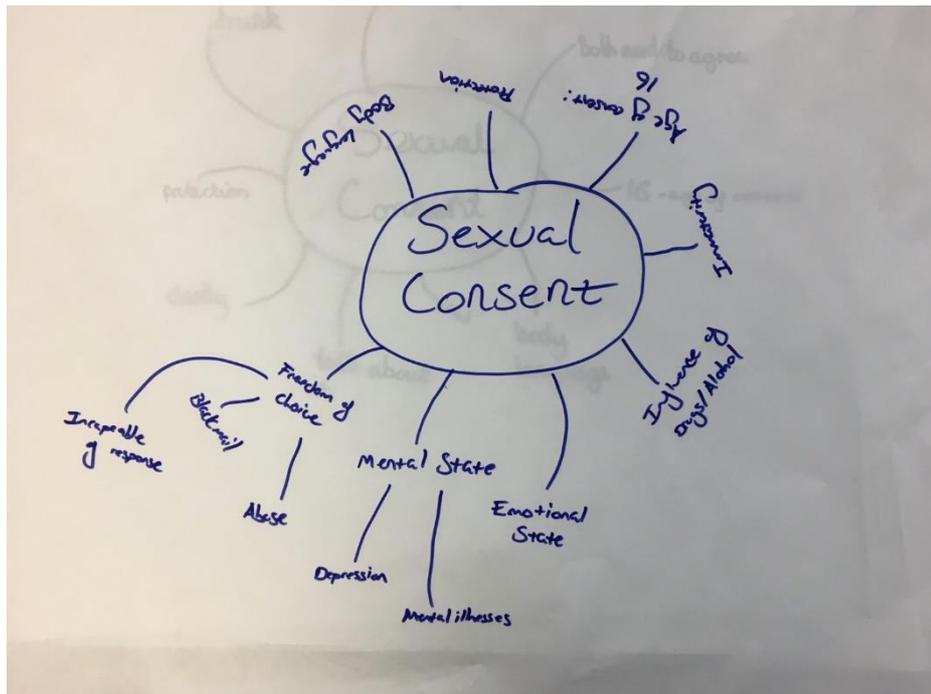
<i>Porn is fake</i>	<i>Porn is illegal if you are under 18</i>
<i>More about the law – deeper knowledge</i>	<i>Average age to start watching porn is 11</i>
<i>Illegal to have sex below 16</i>	<i>You can go to juvie for some things</i>
<i>You can go to juvie</i>	<i>The average age of seeing porn is 11</i>
<i>Online rules of consent</i>	<i>The police are fair</i>
<i>Knew most of it already</i>	<i>Knew most of it</i>
<i>Punishments</i>	<i>Legal age for sex</i>
<i>That 30% crimes are committed by underage individuals</i>	<i>30% of sexual harassment is done by YP</i>
<i>Knew all of it</i>	<i>Porn is illegal to watch</i>
<i>How dangerous porn is</i>	<i>You can be convicted at 10</i>
<i>Bad things about porn</i>	

One thing you'll do differently now:

<i>Report inappropriate sexual behaviour</i>	<i>If I ever do get up to something, make sure I'm careful</i>
<i>Keep an eye out for bad behaviours</i>	<i>Think before I act</i>
<i>Think about others actions</i>	<i>Be more careful (x 2)</i>
<i>Be aware of sexual assault in public</i>	<i>Always think about others' actions</i>
<i>Keep a better eye out</i>	<i>Report if I see something</i>
<i>Confront people if it does happen</i>	<i>Confront people</i>

Wouldn't do any of it anyway	Talk to an adult about sexual things
Not much really, I'm just far more paranoid about porn	Probably to be more paranoid and think more
Be more paranoid	Report sexual assault
Keep a better eye out	

Anything we should add:	
Online things eg. Games	No it was good
Thank you	Be more explicit about the law
In depth about how to sex	Differentiated material for SEN students
Maybe mention something called hentai and the loti variant of it, laws around that would be more obscure	More confidential



Workshop 4

- 30% of the students mentioned how **friendly** the session felt.
- 30% of the students felt that there was **nothing they didn't like** in this session.
- 50% of the students said they felt more aware of issues around **consent** as a result of the session.
- 60% of the students would have liked more elements added to the **presentation** of the session.

One thing you liked:

<i>Learning about laws and whatnot. Friendly.</i>	<i>The info shared gave a lot of insight into laws that I didn't know before and that was useful to know</i>
<i>Clear and useful information</i>	<i>Easy to talk</i>
<i>Friendliness</i>	<i>Talking</i>
<i>The friendliness and the safe open atmosphere</i>	<i>Writing about sexual consent ideas</i>
<i>The mindmap</i>	<i>The writing ideas</i>

One thing you didn't like:

<i>It was all good.</i>	<i>Not that engaging, I knew it all</i>
<i>I liked it all</i>	<i>It was interesting</i>
<i>Not very interactive, slightly boring</i>	<i>The depth it went into</i>
<i>The mind map</i>	<i>Nothing</i>
<i>Convolutated</i>	

One thing you learned (something new):

<i>Sending nudes is illegal</i>	<i>Sex offender register</i>
<i>Age you can go to prison at</i>	<i>The laws around sexual behaviour</i>
<i>The age of consent in the Phillipines is 12</i>	<i>Women can't rape</i>
<i>False rape accusations are rare</i>	<i>More around the topic of consent</i>
<i>Can't get put on sex offender register as a kid</i>	

One thing you'll do differently now:

<i>I will ask and what not</i>	<i>Be more aware of people grabbing up</i>
<i>Be more aware</i>	<i>Ask consent and think more about decisions</i>
<i>Be more careful with consent</i>	<i>Make sure the other person is comfortable</i>
<i>Notice inappropriate behaviour around me</i>	<i>Not make comments</i>

Anything we should add:

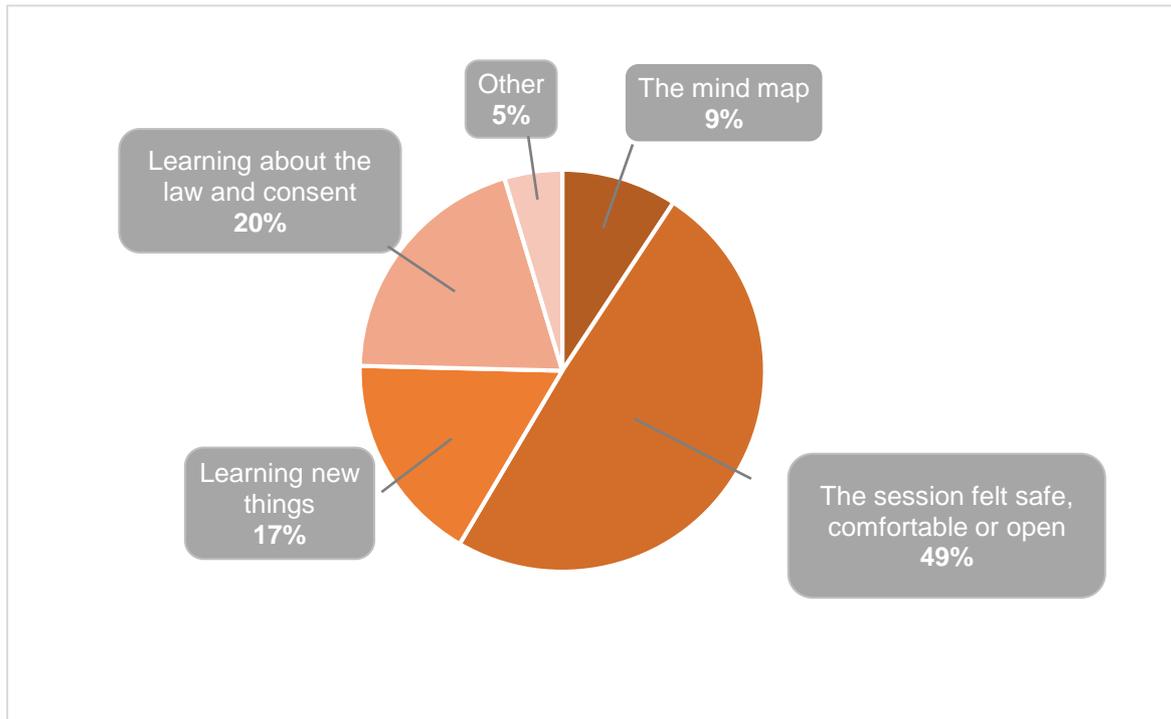
<i>No I think it was great</i>	<i>Powerpoint more interactive</i>
<i>Powerpoint</i>	<i>Nothing</i>
<i>More interactive elements</i>	

Any other comments:

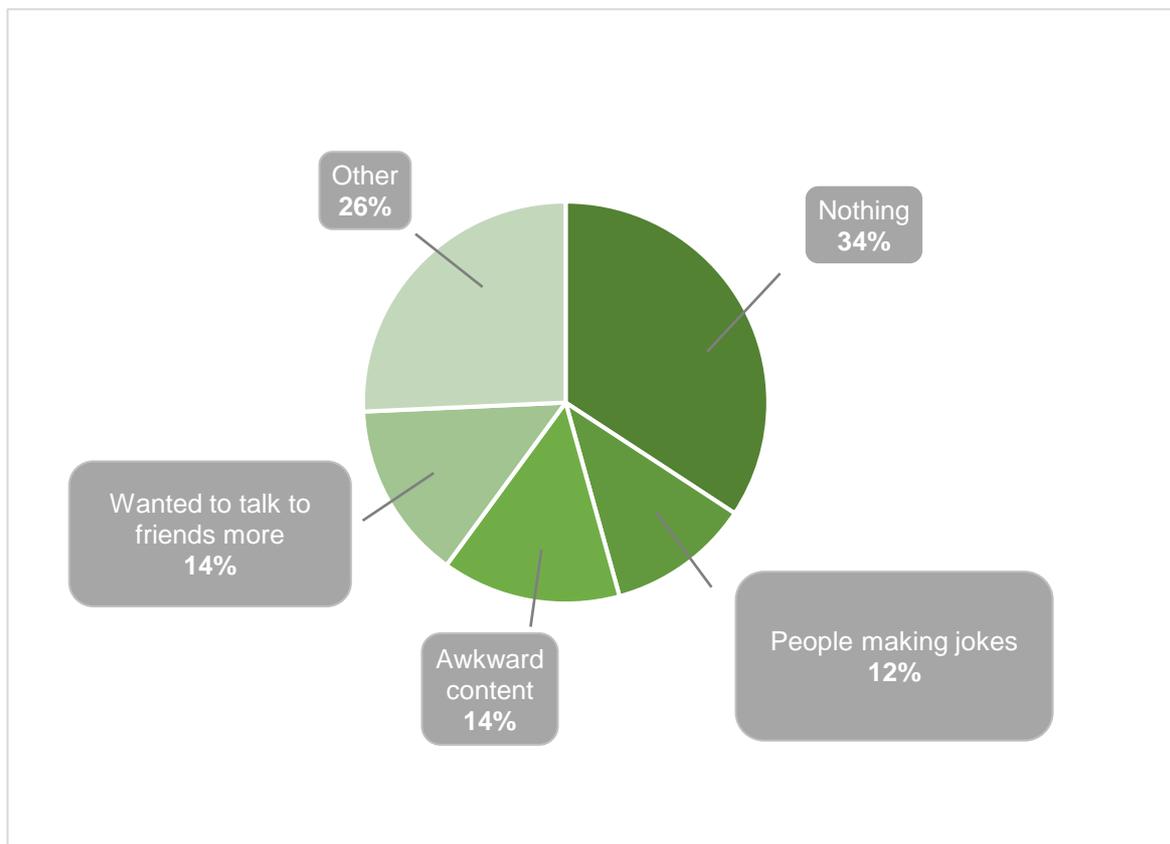
<i>It was great thank you for sharing your expertise in sex</i>	
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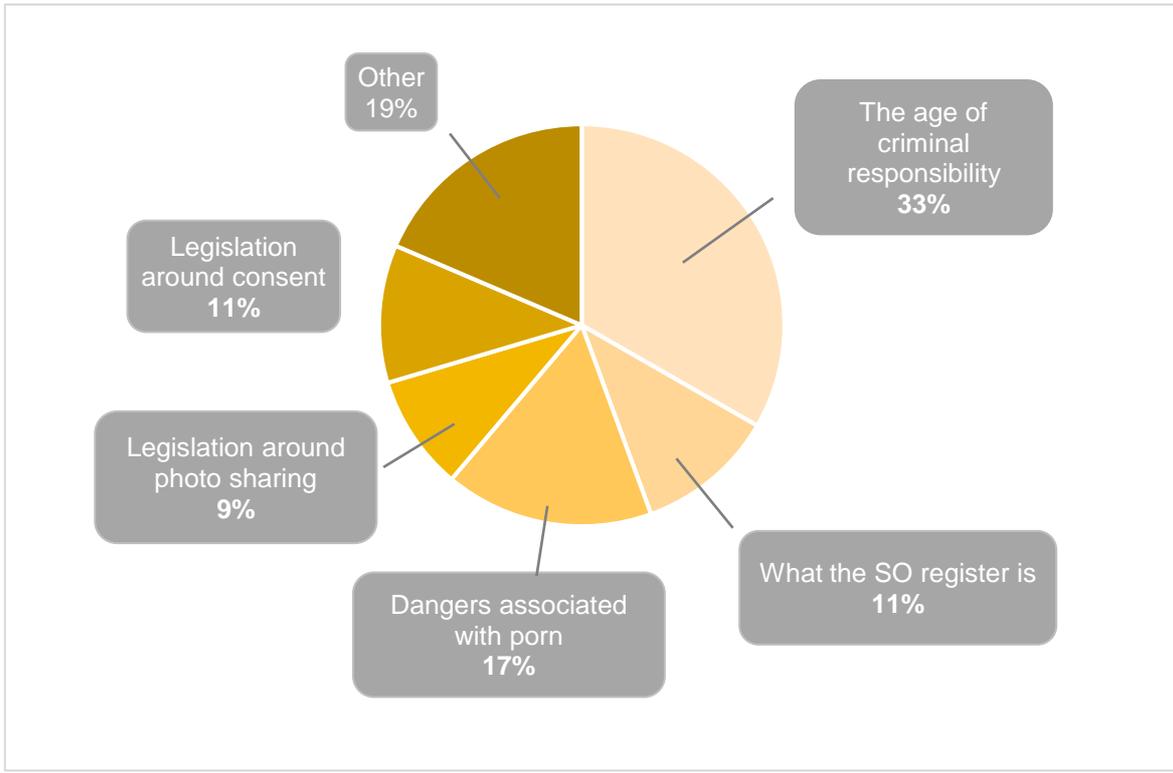
Combined Responses:

Question 1: One thing you liked

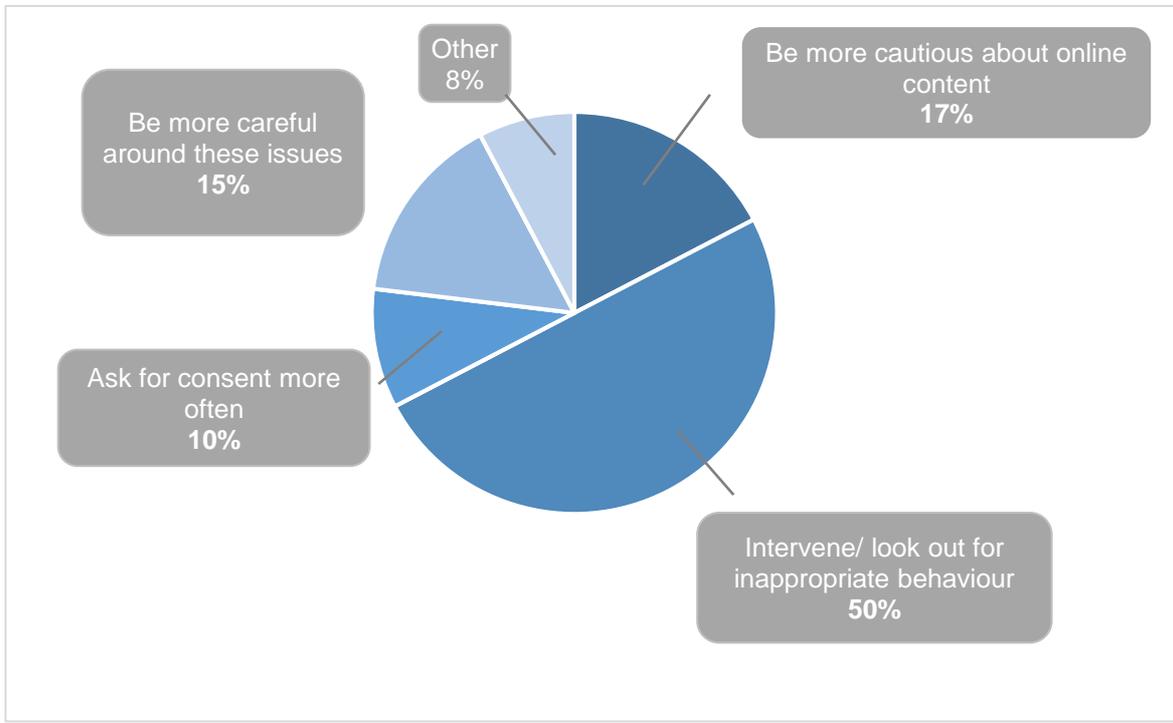


Question 2: One thing you didn't like





Question 3: One thing you thing you learned (something new)



Question 4: One thing you'll do differently now

Feedback from Head of House

1. Were the students engaged in the sessions?

Yes, each of the four sessions were very different but all pupils were engaged in the topic and interested.

2. Which elements did you think were most useful?

The opening section that explored young people's knowledge or lack of knowledge on consent and information relating to young people's perceptions of sex from the internet, movies and porn.

3. Which elements did you think were least useful?

None of the content or delivery was not useful

4. Was anything included that shouldn't have been?

We found that as the sessions progressed phrasing the sessions as 'exploring what you think YOUR experiences of sex and consent are', this ensured people didn't start talking about different laws across the world or niche porn!

5. Is there anything you think should be added?

Examples of case studies or real life experiences that could support the message. This would be great if it were around the consent to send indecent images on social media.

6. Did any students approach you afterwards as a result of the sessions? If so, how many and what was discussed?

No student approached me afterwards

7. Have you observed any changes in behaviour (positive or negative) which you think could be linked to the sessions?

A greater use of the word consent when talking about behaviour students disliked around school

8. Have any more incidents of inappropriate sexualised behaviour or comments been made by any of the young people who participated in the sessions? If so, what?

Not since the sessions

9. Is there anything else that you think we may be able to help with (e.g, follow up sessions, topic specific sessions, sessions for other year groups, combined gender sessions, staff training etc)?

A specific workshop for young people on language and images sent on social media and the law. What to do if you are sent or worried someone has sent images to you without consent??

Summary & Conclusions

Overall, the workshops were well received by the students and staff and feedback was very positive. Feedback around what students liked the most about the workshops included feeling safe and comfortable to discuss the subject (49%), learning about the law (20%), and learning new things (17%).

There were fewer comments about things that the students didn't like but of those that there were, one felt unhappy that the workshop was separated by gender, others noted that some groups were too large, there wasn't enough time for discussion and others were disappointed that some students chose to mess around / not taking things seriously (12%).

Many students said that they left the workshops with new knowledge about sexual consent and the law in relation to sex, indecent images and pornography.

The most striking comments were those in relation to things that students would now do differently as a result of the workshops. 50% of respondents said they would 'call out' or report peers displaying inappropriate sexual behaviours / making inappropriate sexual comments, 15% said they would be more aware of issues around consent and 17% would reduce their pornography use.

Overall, the facilitators were impressed with the level of engagement from the students – most took the workshops seriously and made thoughtful and insightful contributions. Workshop 2 was the most challenging as a number of students decided to mess around and not engage seriously resulting in their peers having the worst experience of all 4 workshops. It is not insignificant that this was the largest group of students of all 4 workshops with over 25 students attending.

Both the member of staff and an overwhelming majority of students expressed positivity towards the workshops and their feedback suggests helpful learning and positive intentions to take their learning forward.

Recommendations

1. Follow up with school in 6 months to establish whether any new concerns raised about inappropriate sexual behaviour by male students within the same year group (now year 11)
2. Deliver same / adapted workshop to all year 10 students (individual genders)
3. Deliver 1 x combined gender workshop after all single sex workshops delivered
4. Offer targeted 1:1 support to individuals showing ongoing problematic sexualised behaviour
5. Signpost any individuals presenting with significant sexual concerns to other agencies
6. Deliver specific workshops e.g. about sharing sexualised images on social media
7. Deliver training for school staff in relation to these areas to enhance confidence in delivering the new PSHE curriculum.

Jackie Citron November 2021