

Members of the Welsh Youth Parliament

29 July 2022

Everybody's Affected: the Children, Young People and Education's report into peer on peer sexual harassment among learners

Dear Member of the Welsh Youth Parliament,

In December 2021, Estyn published an important [report about sexual harassment between secondary school pupils](#). In its report, Estyn says that 61% of girls and 29% of boys in secondary schools have been sexually harassed by other pupils. It also says that sexual harassment mainly happens online, and that many young people don't feel able to tell their teachers or other adults about it.

When Estyn talks about "sexual harassment", it means:

- making sexual comments, remarks, jokes either face-to face or online.
- lifting up skirts or taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing.
- making nasty comments about someone's body, gender, sexuality or looks to cause them humiliation, distress or alarm.
- image-based abuse, such as sharing a nude/semi-nude photo or video without the consent of the person pictured.
- sending unwanted sexual, explicit or pornographic photographs/videos to someone.

I and the other members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee were shocked by Estyn's report. We decided to do our own inquiry into sexual harassment between learners in primary schools, secondary schools and colleges.

Our inquiry looked at things like how common sexual harassment is, who experiences it, how it affects people, why it's happening, and what schools and the government are doing to stop it. We heard from lots of professionals and organisations that work with young people. We also heard from young people themselves: over 100 young people from across Wales responded to our survey.

We know from our work that sexual harassment between school and college learners is really common. For many young people, sexual harassment is part of their everyday lives. You might have witnessed sexual harassment yourself. You might even have experienced it.

I therefore thought that you might be interested to know that we have published our final [report for the Welsh Government and Members of the Senedd](#). The report makes 24 recommendations, which we hope will help to stop sexual harassment in schools and colleges.

We also created a [short video version of our report](#), which is aimed at young people aged 11 to 18. The video report summarises our key findings.

The Welsh Government will respond to our report in autumn 2022. In their response they will say whether they accept or reject our recommendations. After that, there will be a debate on the report in the Senedd.

We hope that our inquiry will help the Welsh Government to do more to stop peer on peer sexual harassment happening.

If you have any views on our work on peer on peer sexual harassment, or on anything else, I would love to hear from you. I would also be delighted if you wanted to attend the Senedd debate on our report in the autumn, and would be more than happy to meet with you before the debate to talk more about this important issue.

It would also be great if you could share our report and video with your friends, family and schools.

If you would like to get in touch, you can email me via the committee clerks at any time at SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS

Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.