

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO TACKLE SEXUAL ABUSE IN SCHOOLS?

What is sexual abuse?

Acts of sexual abuse include (but are not limited to):

- An adult touching a child's/teenager's genitals
- An adult kissing a child/teenager against their will.
- Forced acts of a sexual nature between a child/teenager and an adult.
- Forced acts of a sexual nature between two or more children/teenagers.

Sexual abuse also includes (but is not limited to):

- A child/teenager being forced to look at pornographic content.
- A child/teenager being photographed or filmed for pornographic content.

Sexual abuse also takes place on the internet and social media (e.g. Instagram / TikTok) and includes (but is not limited to):

- Perpetrators sending sexually explicit messages to children/teenagers.
- Perpetrators sending pornographic content to children/teenagers.
- Perpetrators requesting pornographic content from children/teenagers.

Sexual abuse severely impacts the lives of children and teenagers, and the experience can stay with them for their entire lives.

A synonym for "sexual abuse" is "sexual violence".

SEXUAL ABUSE OCCURS IN MANY PLACES

Examples of places where sexual abuse takes place include (but are not limited to):

- A child's/teenager's home
- A neighbour's home
- The home of another child/teenager.
- At school
- At a sports club
- On the internet e.g. TikTok

MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SEXUALLY ABUSED

Unfortunately, sexual abuse still takes place in Germany.

Experts report that it takes place on a regular basis, and believe that there is a victim of sexual abuse in every single class in every single school.

Children and teenagers aren't protected from sexual abuse enough, therefore, everyone has a part to play in tackling the problem.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT SCHOOLS?

Every school can introduce an anti-sexual-abuse policy.

There is no definitive policy that works for every school, so schools are required to create a plan unique to them.

It is important that everyone involved in the school life cooperates with the policy.

It is also important that everyone contributes to the policy. These people include:

- The School Leadership Team
- Teachers
- Skilled workers who work at the school (e.g. support workers, school nurses, etc.)
- Students
- Parents of Students

HOW TO CREATE A POLICY

A meeting should be organised for all involved parties at the school.

Some people may be unsure and uncomfortable with the discussion of the theme of sexual abuse. Therefore, everyone should participate in a training programme delivered by experts in the field.

Firstly, the experts will explain:

- What sexual abuse is.
- How it can be discussed with students.
- How students can be helped.

Following the training, experts will suggest possible answers to the questions:

- What can be done so that sexual abuse doesn't happen at our school?
- What can be done if sexual abuse does occur?

The above questions should be discussed by all involved parties with the advice of the experts.

A policy should then be formulated by the involved parties with the assistance of the experts.

The policy should be written up and displayed/uploaded for everyone to read.

The policy itself is then complete.

It is recommended that everyone involved in school life is informed of the new policy, in order to make everyone aware of the exact and correct protocol. As a result, everyone will have confidence in how to deal with these difficult situations.

INFORMATION MATERIAL: "SCHOOL AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE" (*Schule gegen sexuelle Gewalt*)

The independent commissioner for child sexual abuse issues has established a campaign in which all school authorities are participating.

This campaign is called "**School Against Sexual Violence**" ("*Schule gegen sexuelle Gewalt*")

The “**School Against Sexual Violence**” campaign provides schools with material for all those who are involved in school life.

“**School Against Sexual Violence**” information is available on the campaign’s webpage (see below)

Additional materials are also provided for parents.

Using these materials, an anti-sexual-abuse policy can be created by all involved at the school.

Only if everyone works together, will the policy be successful and only then can the school be a secure place for children and teenagers.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Also, you can find more information regarding the theme of sexual abuse online.

Example websites include:

www.kein-raum-fuer-missbrauch.de (German only)

www.schule-gegen-sexuelle-gewalt.de (German only)

www.beauftragte-missbrauch.de/en/

www.hilfe-portal-missbrauch.de/en/home/

www.bundeselternrat.de (German only)

Alternatively, you can call the “Sexual Abuse Helpline” on:

0800 22 55 530

Calls are free of charge, and you ***must*** remain anonymous.