

Street Harassment



What is Street Harassment?

Street harassment is unwanted behaviour which violates dignity and makes people feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated.

A YouGov survey completed in 2016 indicates that 64% of women have experienced unwanted sexual harassment in public places.

Where Can We Get More Advice?

[Warwickshire Safer Neighbourhood Teams](#) can arrange to visit schools and offer advice for schools.

What is the Purpose of this Briefing?

School students have told us that street harassment is something that they experience on a regular basis on their journeys to and from school; that it makes them feel intimidated and frightened. This briefing is to provide advice to schools to help them support their students.

What Can We do to Stop It?

- Ensure you offer a consistent message that street harassment is wrong and should not be accepted
- If students report they are experiencing catcalling at specific locations contact 111 with the time and location, so the police can respond appropriately

Is it Illegal?

It is possible that the actions of the perpetrator could amount to an offence under Section 5 of the Public Order Act of 1986 which states:

"Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 creates an offence of being threatening or abusive in a way which is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress."

How Can Schools Help?

- Ensure all students know street harassment is not right and encourage them to tell someone if it happens to them
- Educate young people to help them understand that street harassment is serious and wrong and the impact that it has
- Support students to find ways to keep safe when travelling

How Can We Support Our Students?

- Ensure they know that unwanted attention in the form of 'catcalling', prolonged stares or lewd comments is not their fault and should not be accepted
- Emphasise that there's no need to smile, laugh, or engage in conversation with the harasser. They should get away from that person as soon as possible and immediately tell someone they trust