

# Identify and respond to student-to-student abuse

## Provide the right support at the right time

### At all times, you must:

- **Respond to an emergency** – Call 000. Preserve evidence. Keep students safe.
- **Adapt to changing circumstances** – Be flexible. Repeat/take different actions.
- **Document your actions.**

### Identify child abuse

#### All staff

You can identify abuse by:

- witnessing an incident
- receiving a disclosure
- observing:
  - physical or behavioural signs
  - something concerning online or on a device.

If you form a reasonable belief that a student has been, or is at risk of being abused (including harmful sexual behaviour), inform school leadership.

#### Information Sharing staff/Child Link users

- Request information from Information Sharing Entities or check Child Link.

#### School leadership/nominated staff

- **Report**
- **Support** and **Refer**

You may need to take actions in support and refer at the same time.

#### Harmful sexual behaviour

Contact local sexual assault services for support and advice.

### Report abuse to authorities

If you believe a crime against a child has been committed, report to:

- Victoria Police
- your school's relevant governing body.

If the student is under the age of criminal responsibility/not a Victoria Police matter, report to:

- your school's relevant governing body.

For harmful online content, report to:

- [esafety.gov.au/report](https://esafety.gov.au/report)

#### Engage parents/carers

- If Victoria Police are involved, seek their clearance on what can be shared before you contact parents/carers.
- Contact parents/carers as soon as possible (same day preferred).

#### Harmful sexual behaviour

- If Victoria Police are not involved, you can contact your local sexual assault service for advice to engage parents/carers.

### Support students through your school

- Support impacted student/s.
- Engage students and parents/carers to find the best support.
- Tailor to diverse needs.
- Use information sharing.
- Continue as long as necessary.

### Refer to community services

- Engage student/s and parents/carers to find and connect with suitable services.
- Use information sharing.

#### Harmful sexual behaviour

- Contact your local sexual assault service for support for students and parents/carers.
- If a student is using harmful sexual behaviour and their parents/carers are not willing or able to help the student connect to a service, call Child Protection.

### Key contacts

#### Child Protection

8:45am to 5pm, Mon-Fri

North	1300 598 521
South	1300 555 526
East	1300 360 452
West	1300 360 462
After hours	13 12 78

#### Victoria Police

- 000 (emergencies)
- 131 444 or local police station (non-emergencies)

#### eSafetyCommissioner

- [esafety.gov.au/report](https://esafety.gov.au/report)

#### Local sexual assault service



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#### School governing body

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