

NOTES OF GUIDANCE

The stories which follow relate specifically to the prevention of sexual abuse. They are to be used in conjunction with all of the necessary work that will be done in relation to self-esteem, assertiveness, choices, decisions, problem solving etc. It is envisaged that each class might initially use only 2/3 of these stories and that other stories of positive physical contact / relationships would be used to provide a balance and guard against creating fears.

When using these stories, young people may ask why anyone would want to touch anyone else's private parts.

Meaningful explanation will require that the young person has an understanding of normal sexual development from adolescence to adulthood and knows the rules about touching/not touching private body parts.

Inappropriate touching can then be explained as a behaviour which is not acceptable as a part of normal sexual functioning. It is not the norm for adults to have sexual contact with children or young people.

Adults who engage in inappropriate touching do not accept the rules of 'normal' sexual relationships and because of this they use children in an abnormal way to meet their needs.

Young people should be helped to understand that inappropriate touching of anyone's private parts is not acceptable, no matter who the person is – the message that this rule applies to everyone should be reinforced.

It would be important to ensure that the young people understand that any sexual contact should only happen with the consent of the two parties involved who would have a close relationship and would have known each other for some time – it happens in the context of a developing relationship.