

## **The NSPCC working definition of Sexual Bullying**

(adapted from the definition provided by WOMANKIND Worldwide)

Any bullying behaviour, whether physical or non-physical, that is based on a person's sexuality or gender. It is when sexuality or gender is used as a weapon by boys or girls towards other boys or girls – although it is more commonly directed at girls. It can be carried out to a person's face, behind their back or through the use of technology.

For example:

- Teasing or putting someone down because of:
  - their sex life (e.g. because they haven't had sex or if they've had sex with a number of people)
  - their sexuality (e.g. making fun of someone for being homosexual)
  - their body (e.g. the size of their breasts, bottom or muscles)
- Using words that refer to someone's sexuality in a derogatory way (like calling something 'gay' to mean that it is not very good)
- Using sexual words to put someone down (like calling someone 'slut' or 'bitch')
- Making threats or jokes about serious and frightening subjects like rape
- Spreading rumours about someone's sexuality and sex life – including graffiti, texts and msn
- Touching parts of someone's body that they don't want to be touched
- Putting pressure on someone to act in a sexual way