

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2023



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE

WHITE RIBBON DAY 2023 #CHANGETHESTORY

Violence against women & girls is not a women's issue.

- 1 in 4 girls in mixed-sex schools have had experiences of unwanted sexual touching in school.
- 6 in 10 women have felt harassed in the gym by a man.
<https://origympersonaltrainercourses.co.uk/blog/the-gym-timidation-report-exploring-gender-experiences-in-the-gym>
- 1.7 million women experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2022.

Violence against women and girls can happen anywhere and takes many forms from sexist jokes online to harassing behaviours on the train.

Some behaviours may be dismissed as 'small' or 'low-level' acts: sharing sexist 'jokes' at work or in group chats; catcalling women in the street; or harassing women on a night out.

These all contribute towards creating a culture of fear and misogyny that encourages violence and abuse against women.

In spaces where these behaviours are normalised, it can lead to more extreme cases of violence.

**Ending violence against women and girls starts when we
#ChangeTheStory**



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Our Safeguarding Priorities



Neglect



Mental Health & Wellbeing



Domestic Violence

WHITE RIBBON DAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2023

White Ribbon Day is the internationally recognised day where men show their year-long commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

Why does White Ribbon UK focus on men's violence against women, not all men are violent?

The sad reality is, that the majority of violence against women is perpetrated by men. Whether that is a partner, ex-partner, colleague, or stranger.

White Ribbon UK recognises that not all men are violent. All men can end violence against women and girls by challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours.

Why is White Ribbon Day on November 25th?

White Ribbon began in Canada in 1991. At that time, very few men were involved in the issue of ending violence against women, despite men being the perpetrators. There was very little work being done to engage men in the prevention of violence. White Ribbon was founded with the intention of getting to the root of the problem: harmful masculine traits and social norms around what it means to be a man.

From its beginnings, White Ribbon joined with other campaigns around the world to mark the 25th of November. The White Ribbon became an important symbol for ending men's violence against women. White Ribbon was one of the voices that campaigned for the UN recognition of the 25th of November as The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which was designated by the UN in 2000. If violence against women is to be eliminated it remains essential that men become part of the solution for change.

Three things you can do

1. Make the White Ribbon Promise to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women.
2. Wear a White Ribbon year round.
3. Challenge sexist attitudes and behaviour when you see and hear it.

TAKE ACTION !

Be a White Ribbon Ambassador:

A male who takes on responsibility to reflect on their own behaviour and look to positively influence others to prevent violence against women.

Be a White Ribbon Champion:

A female who encourages and challenges men to get involved by finding opportunities to inspire and inform. Champions hold us to account and ensure that women's voices are heard in our work.

St Mary's College was proud to receive its White Ribbon Accredited Status in 2022



Make the promise online