

## 3.5.2 Consent: The age of consent

About the age of consent  
Part 1 statements

1. If you are under the age of 13 the law says you are too young to give consent to any sexual activity at all, like sexual touching or oral sex or vaginal and anal sex.

2. The age of consent in Scotland for young men and women is 16.

3. The age of consent is the same for everyone – so if you are straight, lesbian or gay.

4. Most people wait until they are 16 or older to have sex.

5. If you're both over 16, and both want to have sex, then it's legal.

6. If one of you is 13, 14 or 15 years old and one of you is 16 or over, and you have sex, then the older young person is breaking the law.

## About the age of consent

### Part 2 statements

7. If you are both aged 13, 14 or 15 and having sex, then you or your partner, or both of you might be at risk of being prosecuted (this means charged with breaking the law).

8. It is very unusual for young people (age 13, 14 or 15) to be prosecuted if both young people are happy and one person is not forcing the other to have sex.

9. If you are 13, 14 or 15 and you speak to a professional person about having sex with your boyfriend/girlfriend then they need to be sure you are safe with this person.

10. If you are under 16 and you are having sex with someone much older than you a health professional will help you and they will be concerned about your safety.

11. It is always wrong and against the law to force someone to have sex, no matter what age you or they are.

12. To help protect young people, the age of consent goes up to 18 when your partner is or has been in a position of trust – that is someone who has cared for you like a carer, a teacher or a youth worker.