

S.2 Consent and the law

Cut out the statements below and sort into two piles: GET IT/UNDERSTOOD or NOT SURE/WE HAVE QUESTIONS

1. You need consent every time you have sex, even in a relationship and even if the person has said 'yes' before.

2. If you have said 'yes' to something sexual before you can decide not to do it again, so can the other person.

8. If a person is pressured into saying yes, this is not real consent. It is not consent if you bother or harass or make someone feel bad if they say 'no'. If the person you're with doesn't consent, or changes their mind, you might feel disappointment, but you do not have the right to make them feel bad or try to persuade them to do something they don't want to.

4. A person can say they consent, that they like what you are doing or that they want you to do what you are doing – so they might say "that feels good" or "I really want to do this". A person can also do things that show they are happy with what is happening – so they can pull you closer, look directly into your eyes, they smile, they touch you back.

5. When someone gives consent it means that when they say 'yes' it is clear and enthusiastic. Enthusiastic means they must really mean it and you must be sure they mean it.

6. You need to check that someone is happy to keep having sex. You can ask questions to check like "Are you okay?" "Is this okay?" "Do you want to stop?"

7. Pay attention. If you think the person you are having sex with is not sure or unhappy or worried or frightened, or that maybe they want to stop, then you must stop. The other person does not have to say 'no' or 'stop' because they can say what they feel with their body or actions.

3. You can change your mind when you are doing something sexual. Sometimes in the moment you want to change your mind. It is never too late to change your mind, or to say 'no', or to stop.

9. If someone changes their mind and no longer gives consent you must stop what you are doing immediately.

10. A person cannot give their consent if they are incapable of doing so because of drinking alcohol, or taking drugs or if they are asleep or unconscious. Any sexual activity like that is sexual assault or rape.