

Consent

Learning together about consent

Welcome to the unit we call **Consent**. This unit is part of our programme of learning called Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) education. When we do our RSHP education we focus on the needs of each and every learner in the classroom. We want to develop their communication, cognitive, physical and self-help and independence skills.

All children and young people need to learn about consent during childhood and into their teenage years. For children, we start with learning about communicating *yes* and *no*, about making choices, changing your mind and listening to and cooperating with others. Children can start to learn that they can say *no* to things, like a hug from someone. They can also learn to respond when someone says *no* or *stop* to them. It will only be in later years that we might want young people to understand how we apply consent to more grown-up relationships – but this can't happen unless we establish early learning and understanding.

For learners with complex ASN there is an important aspect to consider when learning about consent. They will often have different adults in their personal space, providing care or assistance. In these circumstances it is the responsibility of adults to seek consent and be respectful of the child or young person's wishes.

It is important for learners that there is a close relationship between school (or college) and home when it comes to learning about consent. This will help make sure everyone works together to promote independence and wellbeing. While we can plan some of this learning a lot of learning also happens in what people sometimes call 'teachable moments', so in situations such as when we ask a child or young person what they would like or prefer, when we respect their decision to stop doing something, or when we give them opportunities to change their mind.

With the right level of support and resources children and young people who take part in activities as part of the **Consent** unit will learn:

- That they have choices.
- They can express like (preferences)/dislike in interactions with others.
- They can change their mind.
- About co-operating, sharing and seeking permission.
- That they should not make someone do something they don't want to do.
- To indicate to an adult if they are upset.

You will find the unit about consent here: <https://rshp.scot/complex-asn-draft/>