We would like to invite your school to participate in a project to **support teachers in delivering impactful Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), to challenge harmful behaviours and develop respectful and healthy relationships**. The topics of consent, coercion and pornography are now included in the RSE curriculum by the Department for Education (2019) and in response to the problem of sexual violence in schools identified in the Ofsted Review (2021). The review identified a need for research into how this can best be taught to help and support young people.

**The ask of your school…**

We would like to invite around 16 of your Year 9 students to take part in a focus group discussion - approximately 50-60 minutes long. There would be no more than 8 students in each group and these would be guided by two members of the research team. All members of the research team have up to date DBS and child protection and safeguarding training, and have wide experience in conducting focus groups which consider sensitive issues so understand how to manage these focus groups and what to do in the event of disclosure or a young person leaving the room, whereby we would follow school protocol and make sure the student returns to a designated space. We are happy to accommodate your school timetable when planning these activities and hope to undertake this work before April 2022

**What will the school get in return?**

Your school will get a copy of the report which can be used to inform your school development plans in this important area. In addition, for every school taking part you will receive £100 in Amazon vouchers to purchase resources to support the RSE curriculum.

**What will students talk about in the focus groups?**

In the discussion group, we will discuss young people’s ideas about how they can best be taught about consent, coercion and the impact of online pornography, and what kinds of RSE materials and activities they think would best empower them to forge positive gender roles and healthy relationships.  Students will also be asked to watch part of a short film called ‘Dare’ developed by Liz Banks and Jo White, two members of the team. ‘Dare’ is a 15-minute drama specifically for young people and explores the impact of social media and internet pornography on young people’s relationship behaviours. It is based on real life events. We will ask students to discuss their views about the film and how they would like the issues it raises to be tackled through RSE in schools. We will also share some quotes from previous research with young people about the impact of pornography upon them. We are very happy to share the film, quotes and focus group questions with you in advance.

**What will happen to the conversations?**

Discussions will be audio-recorded and anonymised information will be analysed to inform new RSE resources, which we will share with you. We may also publish findings in academic journals using anonymised extracts from discussions. Your school and anyone within the school will not be identified.

We will send out information sheets for students and parents in advance of the discussions and follow ethical procedures in obtaining consent. Our UWE Faculty Ethics Committee has already approved this study.

**We appreciate how busy schools are at the moment, and would be very grateful for any time you can give to collaborate in this work.**

We look forward to hearing from you,

Best regards [Helen](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpeople.uwe.ac.uk%2FPerson%2FHelen2Bovill&data=04%7C01%7CHelen2.Bovill%40uwe.ac.uk%7C59f4a00a61aa444d761308d9d5c3877f%7C07ef1208413c4b5e9cdd64ef305754f0%7C0%7C0%7C637775858024340778%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=z1cSAU5r%2BVBg6FwmFsdDH3KZHltoVP4WlapSOdbtZJI%3D&reserved=0), [Jo](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpeople.uwe.ac.uk%2FPerson%2FJoWhite&data=04%7C01%7CHelen2.Bovill%40uwe.ac.uk%7C59f4a00a61aa444d761308d9d5c3877f%7C07ef1208413c4b5e9cdd64ef305754f0%7C0%7C0%7C637775858024340778%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=j576XiNsCyJeoKiWpr4Lc5mupH1vw6%2FE8ZKwdh4xkpU%3D&reserved=0), [Liz](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpeople.uwe.ac.uk%2FPerson%2FLizBanks&data=04%7C01%7CHelen2.Bovill%40uwe.ac.uk%7C59f4a00a61aa444d761308d9d5c3877f%7C07ef1208413c4b5e9cdd64ef305754f0%7C0%7C0%7C637775858024340778%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=v3LTyYv8osZ9drS%2FSOIuPWnHwbsF14pARyrPbtMrOrg%3D&reserved=0), and [Helen](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpeople.uwe.ac.uk%2FPerson%2FHelenMalson&data=04%7C01%7CHelen2.Bovill%40uwe.ac.uk%7C59f4a00a61aa444d761308d9d5c3877f%7C07ef1208413c4b5e9cdd64ef305754f0%7C0%7C0%7C637775858024340778%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=GoB5l9G7FRxR3eb%2F6j%2F3BDSgp5s1d5UPwPBjxXMpSZc%3D&reserved=0)  (You can see our UWE profiles by clicking on these links). Please contact Helen Bovill on helen2.bovill@uwe.ac.uk if you can take part in this research.