

EQUALLY SAFE AT SCHOOL

Equally Safe at School (ESAS) is an online intervention which supports secondary schools across Scotland to take a whole school approach to addressing gender-based violence (GBV). It was co-created by Rape Crisis Scotland and the University of Glasgow to support schools to build a positive culture in which staff and students work together to prevent GBV and feel more confident and skilled in responding to incidents and disclosures of sexual harassment and violence. It is freely available to all secondary schools in Scotland via the ESAS website and schools can access it [here](#).



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WHAT IS ESAS?

The ESAS intervention works with the whole school community to embed a set of holistic measures. These measures include:



- **Whole school assessments** to find out what the main issues are in your school community through focus groups and surveys.
- **A student led action group** where students and staff work together to plan actions to improve their school culture.
- **Teacher training** to equip teachers with knowledge about gender-based violence and skills they need to prevent and respond to it.
- **Policy development** that makes sure school policies relating to gender-based violence are clear, comprehensive and effective.
- **Teaching resources** to ensure that the curriculum includes learning about gender equality and gender-based violence.
- **Monitoring progress** to find out how well activities are working and how to sustain progress.



WHY IS ESAS NEEDED?

GBV takes place in schools, in the form of gender inequality and discrimination, gender based bullying and sexual harassment. GBV is caused by harmful norms, stereotypes, and inequalities based on gender in wider society that are played out in the school environment.

WHAT MAKES ESAS WORK WELL?

ESAS works best when:

- School leadership are aware that GBV is present in their school and believe it is important to address it
- Sufficient time and resources are allocated
- Staff members leading on ESAS are well supported by Senior Leadership
- Staff training on GBV and gender equality is prioritised
- ESAS activities are embedded into existing school process and schools take a coordinated approach to delivering them

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

- Staff feel more competent and capable to prevent and respond to incidents of GBV
- Young people affected by GBV have more confidence to seek to support
- Sexual harassment, gender based discrimination and stereotyping happen less often
- School culture is more respectful, equal and safe

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN ESAS

Sign Up:

A member of the Senior Leadership Team needs to register an account on behalf of their school, because their leadership and permission are needed for the vast majority of ESAS activities. [To register for an account, please click here.](#)



Implement ESAS:

- Organise an introductory meeting with the ESAS Coordinator at Rape Crisis Scotland
- Plan how the intervention can best be integrated into the life of your school and schedule ESAS activities
- Consider how your existing work to tackle GBV might form part of an ESAS whole school approach
- Motivate staff, students, parents & carers to engage with ESAS
- Celebrate the work of the young people and staff involved in the intervention
- Monitor your schools progress toward tackling GBV

Timescales:

Schools can decide their own timescales and pace for carrying out ESAS activities, however we suggest scheduling the main activities to take place over one to two years, depending on schools' capacity and other priority areas of work. It is of course better to take a gradual and sustained approach than to try to complete everything as quickly as possible.



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More information:

If you are interested in finding out more about
Equally Safe at School please contact:

Lisa Waiting

Schools Further and Higher Education
Coordinator
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Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline (for anyone aged 13+)
08088 01 03 02

**Information about other support services is
available [here](#).**

Rape Crisis Scotland,
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