



equally safe at school

a whole school approach to preventing gender based violence

What is Equally Safe at School?

Equally Safe at School (ESAS) has been developed by Rape Crisis Scotland to support and guide secondary schools through a process of embedding a set of holistic measures to prevent gender-based violence. The approach was piloted with schools between 2017-21 and has now been developed into an interactive website with tools, information and resources to support schools and teachers to plan and implement a whole school approach. The website will soon be freely available to schools:

Go to www.equallysafeatschool.org.uk from 25th August



“
School is the place where you are every day for six hours per day. It feels like you're there all the time. So it's important that the people there know how to care for you.
”

Ella

EquallySafeAtSchool.org.uk

Gender-based violence (GBV) and schools

GBV includes a spectrum of behaviours, including rape and sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, domestic abuse, 'honour-based' violence, forced marriage, stalking, and image-based abuse. Schools are dealing with many of these issues and young people are increasingly raising their voices about them. (See for example [Everyday Heroes](#) and [Everyone's Invited](#).)

The Scottish Government is committed to protecting all children and young people from these forms of violence. Through the Equally Safe strategy it recognises that girls and young women are disproportionately affected and that gender-based violence and gender inequality must be tackled hand-in-hand. This analysis is central to the ESAS methodology.

About the ESAS website

The website has a wealth of information for schools about GBV, how to support young people affected, and about the ESAS research conducted by the University of Glasgow – all of which can be accessed by schools, other professionals, parents, carers and young people.

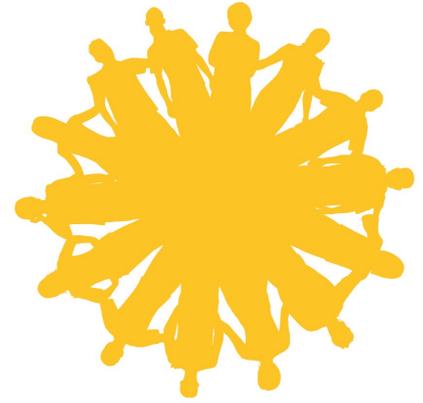
The *my esas* login section contains interactive tools and resources for schools to embed ESAS, as well as a dashboard section for school leaders to monitor progress, delegate tasks and record achievements. A member of the senior leadership team just needs to contact the ESAS Coordinator via the website to register an account.



A complementary approach

ESAS integrates easily with programmes such as Improving Gender Balance and Equalities, Mentors in Violence Prevention, the national resource for relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education and the Rape Crisis National Sexual Violence Prevention Programme.

Its holistic framework complements and enables schools to build on existing progress.



Alignment with outcomes and monitoring

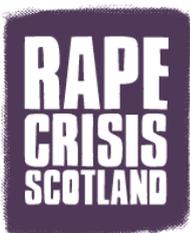
ESAS maps clearly against:

- How Good Is Our School Quality Indicators 1.3 (Leadership of change), 2.1 (Safeguarding and child protection) and 3.1 (Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion)
- Curriculum for Excellence Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood outcomes and benchmarks
- GIRFEC prevention and early intervention aims
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular articles 2 (non-discrimination), 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect), 29D (education to include gender equality), 34 (protection from sexual exploitation) and 39 (recovery from trauma and reintegration)

More information

Schools will be able to access the ESAS from Wednesday 25th August at www.equallysafeatschool.org.uk

For further information in advance of the launch please contact the ESAS Coordinator laura.wylie@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk.



MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit



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