

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Safeguarding All of God's Family

Religious Education Curriculum

Lesson: Sixth Grade

Concept: Shows respect for body, self and others. Follows Grade Specific Religious Education Curriculum concept under Creedal Church.

Goals of this lesson: To raise student awareness about the kinds of sexual harassment which take place all of the time; to discern the fluid, subjective line between flirting and sexual harassment; to encourage open student discussion of a complicated topic.

Teacher: Prepare three lists with headings and subheadings either on the blackboard or on big sheets of newsprint. The titles should look like:

Verbal or Written

Gestures

Physical

Flirting Harassment

Flirting Harassment

Flirting Harassment

Decide on ground rules, e.g.:

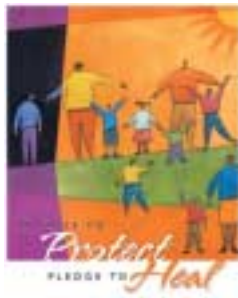
- 1) Everyone must listen when someone is speaking.
- 2) Don't get personal by mentioning anyone's name when telling about a specific incident.
- 3) Ask students to determine other rules, such as "What's said stays here."

Teacher: We are going to talk about the difference between flirting and sexual harassment. Before we begin, I want to state from the outset that we're not here to demonize or blame any boys or girls. Many of us may never be either targets of sexual harassment or perpetrators. But all of us are witnesses and bystanders who may see sexual harassment happening, and we need to learn to say "Hey cut it out, that's not funny!" or "What would you do if this were your sister, your mom, or your brother?"

So, we're not just trying to change boys, girls, men or women. We're trying to change all of us—so we'll have the courage to actively respond when we see sexual harassment going on.

You are the experts of your own culture—and subcultures (cliques you hang with). All the time, you are observing other kids' behaviors in school, and you see how behaviors differ depending on where you are and whether there are adults around or not---in classrooms, locker rooms, the cafeteria, the parking lot, the hallways. In this discussion, I want you to draw upon what you already know and see. You are the experts of your subcultures.

Let's get started---In this exercise we are going to talk about how you interact with each other and what you observe, how you make sense between what is sexual harassment and what is flirting, and it's o.k. if we don't all agree, what's important is that we start talking. Can anyone give me an example of a comment or note that's flirtatious and nice?



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(Teacher begins to write in the categories. When students disagree upon the nature of a particular behavior or comment, ask them what criteria they are basing their opinion on and enter this under a heading “Depends.” For example, perhaps the nature of a comment depends upon whether the speaker is a friend or a stranger, or upon their tone of voice. Write these dependent variables on the appropriate list. (See handout on following page.)

Questions to raise afterwards:

- 1) Why do people define sexual harassment differently?
- 2) If sexual harassment is illegal in schools, how come it goes on?
- 3) What are some common forms of sexual harassment that often go unnoticed in schools?

Note: It may not be the intention of a person to harass another, however, it is the target's feelings that determine whether or not its harassment.

Closing Prayer:

Father,
you have made us.
Red, yellow, brown, white and black
tall and short, fat and thin
rich and poor, young and old—
all are your children.
teach us to cooperate rather than compete,
to respect rather than condemn.
Your Son turned from no one.
May we learn, like him, to be open
to share of the divine
that you have implanted
in each of your sons and daughters.
And may we forge a bond of love
that will make a living reality
the brotherhood in which we profess to believe.
Amen.

Christopher Prayer Book

SAMPLE BLACKBOARD ACTIVITY

Verbal or Written	
Flirting	Harassment
<i>You look nice</i>	→
<i>Like your hair</i>	<i>Nice butt</i>
	<i>'ho</i>
Depends	
tone of voice how they look at you who else is around	

Gestures	
Flirting	Harassment
<i>blowing kiss</i>	→
<i>wink</i>	<i>sexual gesture</i>
<i>wave</i>	<i>lip licking</i>
Depends	
friend or stranger how old they are in public or private	

Physical	
Flirting	Harassment
<i>hug</i>	<i>pinch</i>
<i>hold hands</i>	<i>grabbing</i>
Depends	
friend or stranger where are you	