

AGE OF CONSENT



In the UK, the Age of Consent for any sexual activity (regardless of gender or sexuality) is **16**.

13 years and under

People aged 13 and under are considered children.



Children have NO capacity to give consent to any sexual activity.



There are specific laws with high penalties to protect children.

14/15 years

Technically, it's illegal for 14/15-year-olds to have any kind of sex.



The law wouldn't seek to criminalise if it was a peer of similar age.

16 years and over

If you have the mental capacity to consent to sexual activity, you can have sex with almost anyone.



However, you can't have sex with someone who has a position of power in your life (e.g., sports coach, teacher police officer).



You wouldn't be deemed to have capacity in this instance.

18 years and over

You can have sex with anyone you like.



However, sharing pictures of anyone under 18 is illegal.



As an adult, you are deemed to have significant capacity to make choices around who you want to have sex with, regardless of who they are in your life.



**PAUSE
PLAY
STOP**

#IGetConsent

pauseplaystop.org.uk