

5 KEY CONCEPTS *of consent*

Free and voluntary

It is present only when all people genuinely and enthusiastically want to engage in the sexual activity.

Specific and informed

Consent is only present when everyone involved genuinely or enthusiastically wants to engage in that specific sexual act, and everyone understands what that act is and any potential consequences of that act.

Affirmative and communicated

Sexual partners need to actively say or do something to check for consent. Consent can never be assumed. Silence, freezing, the absence of a 'no', appearing disengaged or a lack of any apparent discomfort, hesitation or resistance, does not imply consent.

Ongoing and mutual

Consent for past sexual activity does not mean consent can be assumed in future sexual activity. Remember, consent can be withdrawn at any point in time!

Reflects capacity

Everyone involved in a sexual act needs to have the capacity to reach, communicate or withhold consent. A range of factors, including age, intoxication, consciousness or other impairment, can affect this capacity to consent.

Remember, if someone is unconscious or asleep, they are not capable of giving consent.