

## WHAT IS THE KISSTORY PROJECT?

In 2017 Professor Emma Renold worked with a researcher in Finland (Dr. Tuija Huuki), a visual artist (Seth Oliver) and an animation company (Spin the Yarn) in Wales to create a series of seven animations and comic strips based upon research findings of children's relationship cultures (age 5-11).

Each animation features the journey of a kiss in young children's worlds. The animations are stripped back without sound or talk or text. The idea is that teachers and peer-educators can enable children to create their own storylines as a starting point for discussions on issues of power and consent in a range of relationships and contexts.

The research team, including Vicky Edwards, invited students and teachers from two secondary schools in Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taf to co-produce the design and delivery of a peer-led workshop with children in Year 5 and 6 (age 9-11). Their aim was to create an interactive workshop for children to learn about consent and develop their own kisstories on how consent matters to them.

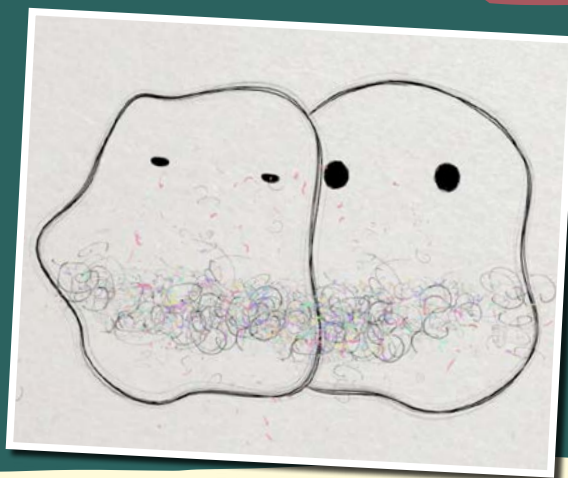
## making consent matter using comics and cartoons in a peer education workshop

# KISSTORY

## What is peer education?

"Peer education approaches value the views and experiences of young people, making them the experts and recognising that they can positively influence and support each other. Involvement can enhance peer educators' confidence and their sense of engagement with their school and communities. They can benefit all young people, but may have particular value as a way of including young people who are often excluded from the mainstream"

**A guide to establishing sex and relationships peer education, Dept of Health**



## DID YOU KNOW...

**CONSENT comes from the latin Con (connectivity) Sent (feelings)**

Consent is all about being able to share and connect with the feelings of others when we seek permission for something to happen. This can be communicated through *what* we say, *how* we say it, and *what we do* (e.g. body language).

### What is consent?

Consent: seeking and giving permission for something to happen

## 1 #WAM meets Newid-Ffem

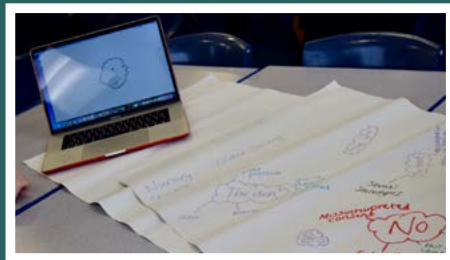
When two school-based feminist youth groups get together from different parts of Wales there is A LOT to share. Some of us had met before at the **Educating Agenda 2017** conference and on **International Women's Day 2017**. It was great to meet again and learn about each other's passion for gender and sexual equality, diversity and rights and talk about the challenges of making a difference on these issues in our different schools. Watch #WAM in action [here](#) and read about Newid-Ffem [here](#).



## 3 Creating the comic strips

We selected four of the animations that we thought would work best for our workshop: YES, NO, THE CHANT and THE GIFT. YES and NO would enable children to create story lines and feelings about seeking and refusing consent; the CHANT around gendered peer pressure to couple up as boyfriend and girlfriend; the GIFT as a developmentally appropriate way to begin to explore control and (sexual) exploitation.

We then selected freeze frames from the animations to create the comic strip books. We also worked up the idea to include a feelings cloud colour palette. The design team (Seth and Dan) created and printed them for us to edit. We also created our own.



## 2 What power and consent means to us

On the first day, we watched the **KISSTORY animations** and talked about what **power and consent** means to us at our age, and when we were at **primary school**. Hwyl shared what he'd been reading from the **Everyday Feminism** website about teaching kids consent and addressing **rape culture** and its **gendered dynamics**. Emma and Vicky shared their knowledge with students and teachers from the **consent research** in this area.

We agreed that it's important to learn about consent from an early age. We realised that it wasn't something that we got to talk about much as kids. The KISSTORY animations were a fun way into this, and we loved that they were designed to be inclusive! And it was so interesting when we flipped the gender of each character from boy to girl and considered non-binary and gender fluid characters or differently abled characters. Creating our own storylines also got us to think about place, context, faith and culture. **INTERSECTIONALITY** and **CONTEXT** was KEY!

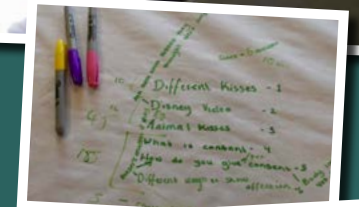


## 4 Research research research

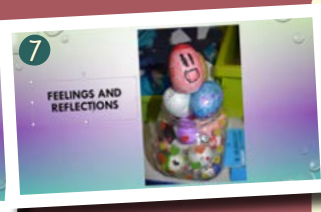
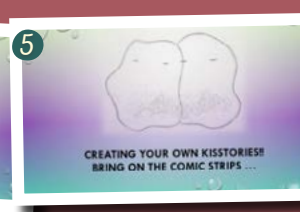
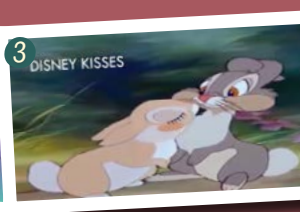
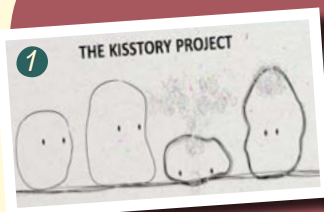
Day two involved sketching out the broad structure and content of our workshop. Breaking out into three groups, we each took an area of research: what is consent; kissing in Disney films; and kissing cultures around the world.

Emma shared the **CONSENT FOR KIDS** video and we thought this might work well at the end of the lesson.

We then spent two afternoon sessions preparing our lesson plan and powerpoint and rehearsing our lesson with Emma, Vicky and our teachers.







## REFLECTIONS FROM WORKSHOP LEADERS

"I loved seeing year 6 responses to our lesson activities. I think more lessons like this are needed in our school"

"I loved working as part of the kisstory team, and enjoyed developing the lessons, meeting students from the other school was a fantastic experience and I enjoyed seeing the (year 6) pupils respond so well to the lesson on consent which is such an important topic to learn about at a young age"

"I found this project really insightful. Consent is so important because we need it in all aspects of our lives and I thoroughly enjoyed engaging young pupils on this"

"I feel like in response to current events, like the #MeToo movement, it is very important to teach children about consent"

# OUR



## PRIMARY SCHOOL WORKSHOP

## KISSTORY WORKSHOP REFLECTIONS in WORDS and EGGS (age 10/11)

"Good, because this happened to me!"

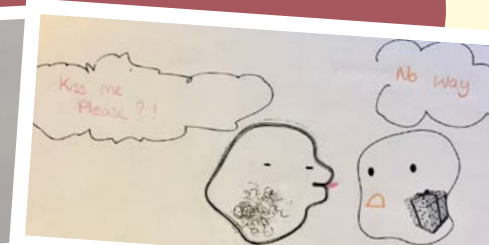
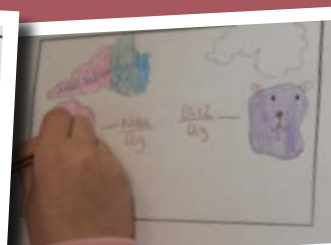
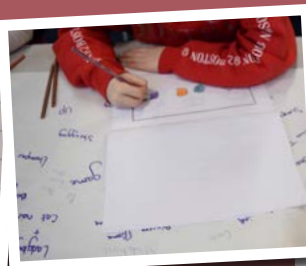
"It's fun ... makes you think about stuff .. yeah"

"I think we should do stuff like this a lot more"

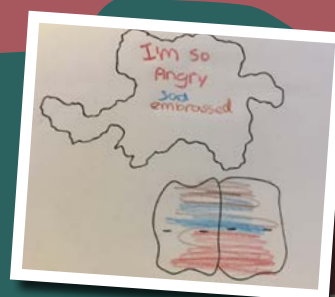
"I enjoyed doing it"

"I reckon it's a good lesson. It's better when we're in Year 6. Because we're older and we can understand more"

"I liked all of it"



Watch the digital story of our KisSTORY workshop [here](#)



Go to **IDEAS FOR CHANGE** for more ideas on making comics and zines and learn about their rich political history in expressing subversive and sensitive issues

# DIY

## What you'll need:

- Screen/tablets with Kisstories downloaded to view
- A3 copies of one or more of the Kisstory comics for each person
- Coloured pencils/pens



## PREPARATION

Read the KISSTORY case study, **animations** and digital story for ideas on how to create a workshop or activity around consent to support this DIY activity.

'Before you begin, read the **Safety and Support** section on how to create safe, affirmative and inclusive environments for exploring potentially sensitive issues.

## COMIC MAKING

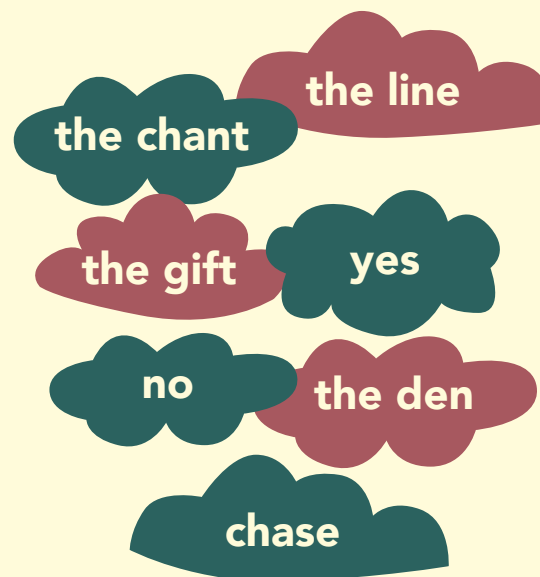
- 1 Watch one or more of the KISSTORY animations and discuss potential storylines in groups or pairs.
- 2 Individually or in pairs, select one of the seven comic strips or a blank comic strip.
- 3 Look at the first page which sets out the story line frame by frame. Taking each frame in turn, talk about what might be happening. Who are the characters? Will they have names? What are they thinking? How might they be feeling?
- 4 Using the thought and speech bubbles, make your own story about how consent matters to the characters in the comic strip.
- 5 Colour in the characters using the feelings cloud colour palette.
- 6 When you've finished your comic, why not film or screenshot each page so others can view and read. Or choose another comic, or a blank comic book.
- 7 You could create a soundscape, with dialogue for one of the moving animations. What story do you want to tell about how consent matters for positive relationships?

**What is consent?**  
Consent: seeking and giving permission for something to happen

## Watch the KISSTORY Animations



## DOWNLOAD THE KISSTORY COMIC STRIPS



## Practice how consent feels in a hand-shake!!

Check out the **Three Handshakes Activity** by Meg John Barker & Justin Hancock



Consent for kids educational animation

How to teach consent to kids

Teaching consent in the early years classroom

5 ways we ignore children's agency that perpetuate rape culture

40 Books on managing emotions

3 Mistakes Parents Make when teaching consent and bodily autonomy – and how to fix them

research on young people & sexual consent

research on children's relationship cultures & consent

## KISSING RESOURCES

Kissing in art

How people kiss around the world

Kissing through history: a timeline

Kissing in Disney cartoons