AGE OF CONSENT

UNDER 12
It’s against the law for anyone to have sexual contact with you, even if you agree to it.

AGE 12
You can consent to sexual activity with someone who’s less than two years older than you.

AGE 13
You can consent to sexual activity with someone who’s less than two years older than you.

AGE 14
You can consent to sexual activity with someone who’s less than five years older than you.

AGE 15
You can consent to sexual activity with someone who’s less than five years older than you.

AGE 16
You’ve reached the age of consent. This means that you can give consent to sexual activity even if the other person is much older than you. There’s no restriction on how much older they can be.

UNDER AGE 18
It’s against the law for anyone in a position of trust or power over you to have sexual contact with you, even if you say you agree. People in positions of power over you are people you would normally depend on or trust. Some examples are a teacher, coach, family member, or doctor.

Exact ages are important because the law measures the differences in age from birthday to birthday. For example, if your 13th birthday is today, you’re too young to consent to sexual activity with someone who turned 15 last week.