

I want to create an app in response to the “everyone’s invited” list that became popular in 2020, this website is used by students to write testimonies about sexual misconduct that has happened in school or perpetrated by people from the school, calling out the UK's education system complete mishandling and neglect of survivors of sexual misconduct in schools. Everyone’s invited <sup>1</sup> is a website where students can talk anonymously about their experiences with inappropriate sexual misconduct including misogyny, rape jokes, sexual harassment, online sexual abuse upskirting (the act of lifting a person's skirt up without their consent, usually in a public setting), non-consensual sharing of intimate photos (including revenge porn), cyberflashing (unsolicited nudes), and sexual coercion in schools or by students outside of school. The aim of the list is to create a safe place for survivors, trying to give them a sense of relief, catharsis and hope that they are not alone in their experiences. The aim of the organization of a whole is to “expose rape culture through conversation, education and support” the organization already has a curriculum that school can follow to address the issues of rape culture apparent in schools, I think alongside this curriculum it would be useful if an app was designed as a tool for students to use to report sexual misconduct in school.

This app would be used to report sexual misconduct to an administrator or committee in schools. It would allow students to anonymously, or using their name, report other students, teachers or family members, the app would ask

- what date/ time the inappropriate behavior occurred
- the affected student’s age
- the age of the perpetrator(s) (if a crime has been committed and age(s) of the affected student is under 18 and the perpetrator is over 18 the police will be sent the testimony of the student and it will be flagged with urgent to the administrator)
- testimony describing what happened (this will be optional as it might be too hard for the student to recount at the time)
- Option where they would describe what they want the administrator to do about what happened.

I think that this would be most effective as an app rather than something like a website or an email network because it would be largely accessible to teenagers as many have access to phones thought the school day and outside of school, kids are also more inclined to use apps instead of websites making the service more accessible.

The app will not stop sending the administrator notifications until the situation is deemed resolved by the administrator and the student, who will also be kept informed about the steps taken to either correct the perpetrators and the sanctions they have received, if the situation is not resolved within a month the student’s testimony will be sent to a second administrator to deal with, making sure that no testimonies get ignored.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.everyonesinvited.uk/>

The aim of this app is to make young people feel safer coming forward when they have been involved with something traumatic either at school or at home, NSPCC research found that 80% of young adults who experienced abuse as a child had to make more than one attempt to tell someone about the abuse before they were taken seriously and 90% of young people who told someone they had a negative experience said that the person they told had not responded appropriately. This app would hopefully make young people feel heard.

Some people would make the argument that there is a big risk when using this app in a school environment and that is false reports, however studies carried out in Europe and in the US indicate false rates between 2% and 6%, it is also important to recognize that even these official reporting can be inflated due to other factors like police record cases as “no crime” or “unfounded”. Everyone’s invited curriculum also includes a module on false reporting and the consequences they can lead to. Therefore, I do not deem this to be a big enough problem to not put forward this idea.

In conclusion, one way we can integrate technology usage into school life is to create an app where young people feel safe to report sexual misconduct or abuse without feeling shameful and scared instead making them feel listened to and safe.