# POWHER: Virginity (V-Card) Guide

#### Intro: What This Guide Is

This guide offers honest, shame-free ways to talk about virginity: what it is, what it isn't, and how to support young people or yourself in understanding it.

#### For Parents & Mentors

#### Be open about your support:

"If you ever want to talk about relationships, consent, or sex, I want you to know I'll be calm and honest with you..."

- Avoid shaming or fear-based language
- Talk about consent, safety, and readiness
- Reassure them they are not defined by sexual experience

#### **For Friends**

## Supportive words:

"Everyone's timeline is different. You're not weird or behind. You're valid exactly where you are."

- Validate their feelings
- Avoid teasing or pressure
- Encourage open, judgment-free conversations

#### For You: If No One Ever Told You

Virginity is not a medical condition. It's a social concept. There's no 'right' time or way, it's personal. Only you get to define when you want to have sex for the first time

- The hymen doesn't define virginity
- Sex should always involve consent and respect
- You are whole whether you've had sex or not

You deserve real answers, not silence.

#### What is Consent?

Consent means giving clear, enthusiastic, and ongoing permission. It's not just a one-time "yes," it's a full-body "I want this," from start to finish.

#### Here's what real consent looks like:

- Freely given It's not forced, pressured, guilted, or manipulated.
- Reversible You can say "yes" and then change your mind. That's okay.
- Informed You know what you're agreeing to.
- Enthusiastic You want it, not just going along to please someone.
- Specific Saying yes to one thing (like kissing) doesn't mean yes to everything else.
- If it's not clearly a yes, it's a no.

#### What Consent Is NOT

- It's not silence.
- It's not "they didn't say no."
- It's not doing something out of guilt, pressure, or fear.
- It's not a "yes" someone said while under the influence or in an unsafe situation.

Consent isn't awkward, it's respectful, safe, and meaningful when both people feel seen and wanted.

# Pressure Isn't Okay—Even If You Like the Person

#### If someone says:

- "Come on, everyone's doing it."
- "But I love you."
- "If you really cared, you would..."
- "You've already done X, why not go all the way?"

That's not romance. That's pressure.

You never owe anyone your body, not because you've been dating them, not because they're older, not because they're "sad," and not even if you've done sexual things before.

## **Knowing Your Boundaries**

Boundaries are what feel okay, safe, and respectful to you.

You might not know them all yet. That's normal.

### Ask yourself:

- "Do I want this, or am I afraid to say no?"
- "Would I feel okay after this, even if we broke up tomorrow?"
- "Am I doing this because I want to or because I don't want to lose them?"

If something feels weird in your gut, it's okay to pause, stop, or step back.

Your boundaries can grow and shift over time. You don't need to explain them to anyone to make them valid.

#### You're Allowed To:

- Say no: even if you said yes before
- Change your mind: even mid-way
- Set limits: without apology
- Wait: without feeling "behind"
- Only go as far as you're comfortable
- Ask questions: without shame

# **A Loving Reminder**

- You are not a "prude" for having boundaries.
- You are not "easy" for saying yes.
- You are not "late," "weird," or "broken" for waiting.
- You are not "bad" for being curious.

You are a person, and you get to decide what happens to your body.

And if someone doesn't respect that? That's not love. That's a red flag.