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Derbyshire
Children and Young People's
Health Promotion Programme

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'Selfies'



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Defining Sexting

Images or video generated

- by children under the age of 18, or
- of children under the age of 18

that are of a sexual nature or are indecent.

These images are shared between young people and /or adults via a mobile phone, handheld device or website with people they may not even know.

Sexting can happen for lots of reasons:

- Feel like 'everyone else is doing it' and want to fit in
- Worry about being labelled as 'not sexy' or 'a baby' and go along with things even if they don't feel right
- Feel harassed, threatened or blackmailed
- Being made to feel guilty by a boyfriend/ girlfriend 'If you loved me...'
- Being in love and trusting someone you want to have a sexual relationship with
- Feel it's easier to 'give in' to someone who keeps asking for things

Encourage young people to think before sending photos

- What could happen to it?
- Who might see it?
- What are the risks?
- Who are you sending it to?
- Why are you sending it?



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What the law says

Although unlikely to be prosecuted, young people may be visited by the police and equipment removed.

Crimes involving indecent images of a person under 18 years fall under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 Criminal Justice Act 1988. It is a crime to:

- Take an indecent photograph or allow an indecent photograph to be taken
- Make an indecent photograph (this includes downloading or opening an image that has been sent via email)
- Distribute or show an image
- Possess with the intention of distributing images
- Advertise
- Possess such images.

CEOP You Tube Videos to Watch



Exploited



Exposed



Consequences

Extent of sexting

- 38% of young people had received a sexually explicit text or email
- One quarter had received an offensive sexual image
- 85% knew the identity of the aggressor
- Nearly 1 in 3 had been chatting online when someone started to talk to them about sexual things

Beatbullying, Virtual Violence II Re

Steps to take if your child has shared an image of themselves:

- Offer reassurance and try not to shout or panic
- Ask them who they have shared it with
- Inform the provider/website
- Inform the authorities (especially if they've been coerced)
- Consider informing the school/college, especially important if other students are involved

Steps to take if your child has received or passed on an image:

- Ask who sent it to them
- Inform either school, police, CEOP for help and support
- Don't delete it, secure it until you get advice from one of the agencies above
- Talk about the issue with your child in order to reassure them
- Keep an open dialogue with your child.

Help and Support is Available

