

Sexting

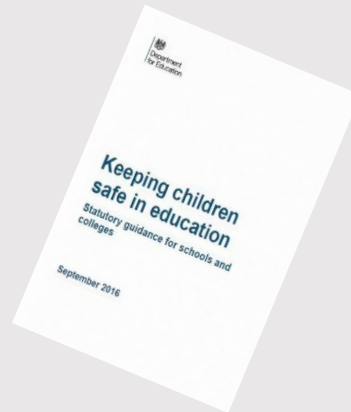
Ormiston Sudbury Academy



Sending of sexually explicit messages/images via text and email. The term 'Sexting' means different things to different groups of people, but Sexting is risky and is a Safeguarding concern. Sexting is the use of digital technology to record and send sexual photos, images, videos as well as text messages, with others online. Children are often unaware of the law, risks, dangers and consequences of Sexting. Sexting can happen between adults and children but also amongst children themselves.

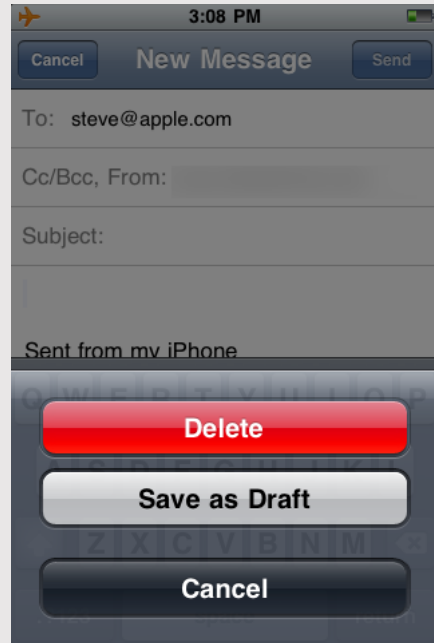
Misconception that only girls send images; common 'sexts' include images of young boys exposing themselves or boys who have requested girls to remove their clothing.

Sexting is on the increase in the UK



Advice to students . . .

The safest way is to not take such photos - or allow them to be taken.



In the United Kingdom, it is **illegal** to **take, make, distribute, show or possess an indecent image of a child under 18.**

The maximum sentence is 10 years imprisonment.

Registered as a sex-offender

If you send a 'sext' you can be found **guilty** of distributing child pornography.

If you receive and save a 'sext' you can be found **guilty** of being in possession of child pornography.

If you upload a photo to a social networking profile, where photos are visible to the public you are in breach of website terms and **guilty** of distributing child pornography.

Images can and have been the subject of child pornography for distribution among strangers and paedophiles.

What you need to know

If you are worried that students may be receiving or even sending indecent images on their mobile phone, you should talk to them about the consequences of their actions. Make them aware that once the image has been sent, they have lost control of that image and anyone can potentially have a look at it.

Report it to the DSL Team or Customer First: local MASH Team

Annexe – September 2016 Update

Online safety

- Online safety has been given a new sub-heading in the KCSIE Document to highlight its importance.
- A new paragraph has been added highlighting the need for appropriate filters and monitoring systems to be put in place.
- Stronger wording is used: Schools "should ensure" rather than "should consider" that online safety is included in relevant lessons.

Peer on peer abuse

- Peer on peer abuse is included as something all staff should be aware of.
- Sexting is specifically mentioned as a form of peer on peer abuse and schools should ensure that their approach to it is clearly reflected in their child protection policy.
- Advice on sexting encourages parents to contact School. **WE WILL BE THE FIRST PORT OF CALL.**

How can we prevent?

- Educate students via PHSE by talking to them about what Sexting is and what they can do to protect themselves (encourage students to think about what they share with others and who might see it online).
- Explain their responsibilities when online, the law and the consequences of Sexting.