Sexting

Sexting is the term used for sending or receiving sexually explicit texts, images or videos via mobile phones, computers or tablets.

It can be seen but creating or sharing images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child. A young person is breaking the law if they:

- Take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend.
- Share an explicit image or video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age.
- Possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave their permission for it to be created.

Prevention Advice

- As soon as you press send you lose control of the image.   Your image could be posted anywhere on the internet, social media sites or even porn sites

- Don't send anything that you wouldn't want your parents, teachers or friends to see. Even if you completely trust the person you are sending it to someone might accidently see the image

- Remember screen shots can be taken off webcams or phone apps

- If you ever feel pressured or threatened into sending a photo or video, or if someone tries to bully or blackmail you into sending one, you should speak to an adult you trust straight away or call the police. We have specially trained officers to deal with these types of incidents

- If you're sent a sexual image or video do not share it

Useful Links

The Disrespect NoBody campaign helps young people to understand what a healthy relationship is and re-think their views of controlling behaviour, violence, abuse and sexual abuse, as well as what consent means within their relationships. Read more here.

If you are concerned that your child is sexting and want to talk to them about it, please click here to read advice from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Childline is a charity that can help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue. If you are under 19, and want to know more about sexting, please click here or call 0800 1111.

If you see a sexual image of a child, you can also report this to the Internet Watch Foundation. To report a sexual image of a child, please click here.

Internet Matters is a charity who try and keep children safe in the digital world. They offer parents advice on online safety issues. For more information, please click here.