

Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people

New guidance
- key points

Sexting is now also called - Youth produced sexual imagery

Sexting is the sharing of sexual images (still photos or moving videos) created by young people

It is thought at least 1 in 10 children are taking and/or sharing sexual images

Child Protection Policies should include an approach to sexting

All staff should know how to recognise and refer any incidents involving sexting

Ofsted look for evidence of successful safeguarding arrangements in regards to sexting

A sexting incident should be referred to the DSL as soon as possible

Parents and carers need to be informed and supported to respond appropriately to sexting incident

Making, possessing and distributing any imagery of someone under 18 which is 'indecent' is illegal

Parents should be informed at an early stage and involved in the process - unless this would put the young person at risk

Schools may respond to incidents without involving the police

Some incidents will require police and/or children's social care involvement, where there are aggravating factors

All incidents should be recorded in line with the schools safeguarding policy

Any direct disclosure by a young person should be taken very seriously

Adults should not normally view youth produced sexual imagery - they should act on what they have been told.

If any devices need to be seized and passed onto the police then the device(s) should be confiscated, turned off and placed under lock and key until handed to the police.

Young people should be educated about the risks of sexting and how to safeguard themselves

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