



Safeguarding & Child Protection at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

What is sexting or sending nudes?

Charities including the NSPCC are concerned more young people are sharing naked images of themselves.

Charities report that they have seen an increase since lockdown. "Many young people want to send them because it has been normalised in terms of social media"

Sexting or sending nudes is when someone shares a sexual message, naked or semi-naked image, video or text message with another person. It doesn't have to be a nude image of them and could be an image of someone else.

What are the risks of sexting?

It's important to talk to your child about the risks of sexting and let them know they can come to you if someone's pressuring them to send or share nudes, or if they're worried about something. Some of the risks of sexting or sending and sharing nudes for children and young people are:

- losing control of the images, videos or messages and how they're shared. Once something's shared online it's public and can be saved or copied by others.
- blackmail, bullying and harm. Young people can have their photos, messages or videos shared without their consent or be bullied about them. This can lead to them feeling difficult emotions like distress or embarrassment and shame.
- Young people can send nudes using phones, tablets and laptops and can share them across any app, site or game, including during a livestream. Many young people also share them on social media channels.

Reporting a sexual image or video

Some of the ways you can report a sexual image or video are:

1. Contact CEOP if you're worried about a child sending naked images, videos or sexual messages.
2. Make a report on the social media platform where the image or video is shared. Use Net Aware to learn how to do this on different social networks, apps and games.

Is sexting legal?

- The law says that creating or sharing sexual images or videos of a child **under 18 is illegal**, even if the person doing it is a child. This includes: sending sexual messages to a child
- a child taking an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend
- sharing an explicit image or video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Jayne Jones

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Carly Hughes

CEOP Ambassador

Mrs C Murphy

Useful Acronyms and Vocabulary

CEOP - Child Exploitation and On-line Protection Centre

CYC—Cheshire Young Carers

PREVENT - Part of the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy to stop people being drawn into extremism

CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

KSCIE - Keeping Children Safe in Education

RSE - Relationships and Sex Education

Useful Websites

youngminds.org.uk

nspcc.org.uk

childline.org.uk

cheshireyoungcarers.org

ldas.org.uk