

# Sexting

## What it is

- **Sexting** is when people share a sexual message and/or a naked or semi-naked image, video or text message with another person. It's also known as nude image sharing. Children and young people may consent to sending a nude image of themselves. They can also be forced or coerced into sharing images by their peers or adults online. It is against the law to produce, possess or share explicit images of anyone under 18, even if this is done consensually, or if a child makes an explicit image of themselves.

## Signs

- Students may become withdrawn, they may not attend school, they may either become addicted to the phone or not want to use the phone. Student may become the victim of bullying.

## What to do

- If a young person tells you they've been involved in sexting it's important to be understanding and non-judgmental. Try to find out a bit more about what's happened, including who sent the image and who has seen it. **Never view or save explicit images, videos or messages.**
- Log the concern on cpm
- You should take steps to get an explicit image or video removed if it's been posted online.
- Report the image to the site or network hosting it and contact the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).

## Useful Websites

- <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/safeguarding-examples-issues-concerns#sexting>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/sexting/>
- <https://www.iwf.org.uk/>

## Questions

- What is meant by sexting
- Is sexting illegal if under the age of 18?
- What should you do if you have sent images and they have been shared?
- What should you do if you are sent images