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Broxbourne Safer Neighbourhood Team, Hertfordshire Constabulary





# What is 'Sexting'?

Sexting means sending indecent images (pictures and/or videos) of yourself or others or sending sexually explicit messages. Sexting is commonly known as "sending nudes" or "sexts".

Sexting can happen on any electronic device that allows sharing of media and messages including smartphones, tablets, laptops or mobiles.

### "Just send it"



http://www.childnet.com/resources/pshetoolkit/sexting/ just-send-it Is this story realistic? Could a similar situation happen in this school?

In this film, where do you think the line was crossed?

Why does Josh mention possible involvement from the police at the end of the film? Who do you think broke the law in this film? Abi was reluctant at first to send the image to Josh. What made her change her mind?

Why did Josh ask for the photo? Did he feel any pressure to have images like this?

Did Abi give consent for her photo to be shared around the school? In this situation, who is more at fault – Josh, Abi or Brandon? Anyone else?

Do you think Josh respected Abi? How can you tell if someone respects you? Some of the comments under Abi's photo are quite mean. None of them seem to portray Josh in a negative light. Do you think there are different standards between boys and girls: if a guys sends the picture around or if a girl does?

What do you think of the comment that Eve makes when she says, "Gotta keep your man happy"? Is this how girls can feel; that they must keep their boyfriends or friends happy? Abi receives a naked picture of Josh first. What would happen if Abi decided to share this picture around to others?

## 'What does the law say?'

A 16 year old boy sends an indecent image of himself to his 16 year old girlfriend. She opens the image, keeps it privately for some time and then when their relationship breaks up she sends it to a number of their mutual friends who open it. L 1 minute Q. What crime has the 16 year old **boy** committed?

- A. He has committed the following offences under the Protection of Children Act 1978 ("PoCA") or the Criminal Justice Act 1988 ("CJA"):
- to take or permit to be taken or to make an indecent photograph of a child (under 18) (section 1(a) of PoCA). It makes no difference to the law that the image is of himself.
- to distribute or show such indecent photograph (section 1(b) of PoCA).
- to possess an indecent photograph of a child (under 18) (section 160 CJA).

Q. What crime has the 16 year old **girl** committed?

A. She has committed the following offences:

- to make an indecent photograph of a child (under 18). She "makes" a photograph by opening the image on her phone or computer (which has the effect of creating an image on the hard-drive) (section 1(a) PoCA).
- to distribute or show such indecent photograph (section 1(b) of PoCA).
- to have in her possession such indecent photograph with a view to it being distributed by herself or others (section 1(c) of PoCA).
- to possess an indecent photograph of child (under 18) (section 160 CJA).
- to disclose a private sexual photograph or film if the disclosure is made (a) without the consent of the individual who appears in the photograph or film and (b) with the intention of causing that individual distress (section 33 Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015). This is often referred to as the new 'revenge pornography' offence.

Q. What crime have the **friends** of the 16 year girl committed to whom she has sent the image?

A. None, if they do not open the image.

But if they do, they commit the offence of 'making' (s1(a) PoCA) and, if they keep it, of 'possession' (s160 CJA) and, if they show or send to others, then of "distribution" (s1(b) PoCA).

## 'Only a picture'? Four reasons not to send it.

#### Once it's gone, it's gone.

Share a picture or video online or on your phone and someone else might send it further. You could lose control of it and who knows where it might end up?

#### It's against the law!

If you're under 18, it's illegal to take or share an 'indecent' picture of yourself, or to look at or share someone else's.. *If it's naked, a topless girl, contains genitals or sex acts including masturbation it will be 'indecent'!* 

#### You could be blackmailed.

Swapping naked pics with someone you've met online? If you send a picture you wouldn't want other people to see then you could be in danger of being blackmailed.

#### Will they keep your pic private?

Even if you really trust them, it would only take a moment for them to share it tonight, tomorrow or next year... in that moment they could be in a silly mood, drunk or angry. They could just hit 'send' by accident.



The UK Council for Child Internet Safety offers advice to teachers and other educational providers and there are Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) within your school who are there to **help**.

### The Police

The law is there for child protection purposes and the child in the picture is seen by the police as **a victim** in first instances. Crown Prosecution Service guidance states:

"... the overriding purpose of the legislation is to protect children and it was not Parliament's intention to punish children unnecessarily or for the criminal law to intervene where it was wholly inappropriate."

www.ceop.police.uk – Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command



If you don't want to talk to someone you know you can call ChildLine, the free helpline for young people. You can contact ChildLine about anything. No problem is too big or too small. Whatever your worry, it's better out than in.



"We work internationally to make the internet a safer place. We help victims of child sexual abuse worldwide by identifying and removing online images and videos of their abuse. We search for child sexual abuse images and videos and offer a place for the public to report them anonymously. We then have them removed."

### Have you sent a naked selfie?

Don't panic – as you can see, there are things you can do and we are here to

Thank you for listening! Any questions?

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help.

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