



Ravensdale Junior School

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Schools Position Statement on Sexting

What is 'sexting'? In the latest advice for schools and colleges (UKCCIS, 2016), sexting is defined as *the production and/or sharing of sexual photos and videos of and by young people who are under the age of 18*. It includes nude or nearly nude images and/or sexual acts. It is also referred to as 'youth produced sexual imagery'.

'Sexting' **does not include** the sharing of sexual photos and videos of under-18 year olds with or by adults. **This is a form of child sexual abuse and must be referred to the police.**

Children and young people demonstrate a range of sexual behaviours as they grow up, including sharing explicit messages and images (sexting). However, sexting can leave children vulnerable to bullying, blackmail, online grooming or abuse. Some children can also feel pressured into sexting when they don't want to.

What to do if an incident involving 'sexting' comes to your attention –

- Report it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately - Tracy Morris; Zoe Cannon; Gemma Wright; Becky Hunt
- Never view, download or share the imagery yourself, or ask a child to share or download – **this is illegal.**
- If you have already viewed the imagery by accident (e.g. if a young person has showed it to you before you could ask them not to), report this to the DSL. • Do not delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it.
- Do not ask the young person(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL.
- Do not share information about the incident to other members of staff, the young person(s) it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers.
- Do not say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved.
- Do explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL.

The school's safeguarding policy outlines the codes of practice to be followed if an incident of sexting is identified.

For further information download the full guidance Sexting in Schools and Colleges: Responding to Incidents and Safeguarding Young People (UKCCIS, 2016) at www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis