

Nudes and semi nudes sharing- Policy on a page

It is illegal to make, possess or share nude and semi-nude images, videos or livestreams of a child under the age of 18. This includes sending or posting nude or semi-nude images via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps or other online forums. It also includes sharing via offline devices e.g. Apple AirDrop. It is illegal to share an image or video of anyone over the age of 18 without their consent. This is known as Intimate Image Abuse (formerly 'revenge porn'). Whilst this may be more common in Secondary age children, staff must remain aware that this can be seen in Primary age children, especially those with SEND. There has been a recent large increase reported of financially motivated sexual extortion targeting children.

What to do when you suspect a device contains an indecent image

If an incident of indecent image sharing is shared by the pupil, then staff must **IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE SCHOOL DSL**

Remember:

- **Never** view, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery themselves, or ask a child to share or download – **this is illegal**
- If a member of staff has already viewed the imagery by accident (e.g. if a young person has showed it before they could be asked not to), report this to the DSL (or equivalent) and seek support.
- **Do not** delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it.
- **Do not** ask the child/children or young person(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL (or equivalent).
- **Do not** share information about the incident with 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 see [Challenging victim-blaming attitudes \(ceopeducation.co.uk\)](http://Challenging victim-blaming attitudes (ceopeducation.co.uk)) for support
- **Do** explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL (or equivalent).
- Be aware that the prosecution or criminalisation of children for taking indecent images of themselves and sharing them should be avoided where possible. Being prosecuted through the criminal justice system is likely to be upsetting and distressing for children and young people especially if they are convicted and punished. The label of sex offender that would be applied to a child or young person convicted of such offences is regrettable, unjust and clearly detrimental to their future health and wellbeing
- **NB: professionals must not print, forward, distribute or save any images or content believed to be an indecent image unless Police advice has been given.**

[Report Remove \(iwf.org.uk\)](http://Report Remove (iwf.org.uk)) is a tool which young people aged over 13 can ask to have an image removed. This information can be shared with parents/carers to enable the image to be removed where it is illegal.

Educating pupils

Our schools educate pupils about healthy relationships and online behaviours through PSHE/SRE and the wider curriculum opportunities.

Any staff member who is concerned about a child disclosing or being exposed to harmful behaviour must immediately report this to a DSL and ensure that this is recorded on CPOMS.

Policy document for: **Nude and semi-nude image sharing**

Updated: Autumn 2025

This policy forms part of the Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and online safety policy and gives specific school actions in relation to their context.

Linked guidance

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: how to respond to an incident \(overview\) \(updated March 2024\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Staff must remember contextual safeguarding. When considering safeguarding incident or behaviour concerns, all assessments must consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. This is an approach to understanding and responding to children's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. This includes online abuse.

The term 'sharing nudes and semi-nudes' is used to mean the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams of/by children under the age of eighteen. This includes sending or posting nude or semi-nude images via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps or other online forums. It also includes sharing via offline devices e.g. Apple AirDrop. It is illegal to share an image or video of anyone over the age of 18 without their consent. This is known as Intimate Image Abuse (formerly 'revenge porn').

Creating and sharing nudes and semi-nudes of under-18s (including those created and shared with consent) is illegal which makes responding to incidents complex. The [UKCIS Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people' guidance](#) outlines how schools and colleges should respond to all incidents of consensual and non-consensual image sharing; it should be read and understood by all DSLs working with all age groups.

The motivations for taking and sharing nude and semi-nude images, videos and live streams are not always sexually or criminally motivated. There are many reasons which children and young people may feel that they should take/share nudes and semi nude images including social pressure, coercion, flirting, as part of a relationship milestone. Whilst this may be more commonly seen in Secondary age children, staff must be aware that this could still happen with Primary aged children.

Images may also be shared when:

- children and young people find nudes and semi-nudes online and share them claiming to be from a peer
- children and young people digitally manipulate an image of a young person into an existing nude online
- images created or shared are used to abuse peers e.g. by selling images online or obtaining images to share more widely without consent to publicly shame

BA MAT schools recognize that consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos (also known as youth produced/involved sexual imagery or "sexting") can be a safeguarding issue; all concerns will be reported to and dealt with by the DSL (or deputy).

What to do when you suspect a device contains an indecent image

If a staff member **suspects** a device may contain an indecent image of a child (also known as a nude or semi-nude image or video), they will **immediately contact the school DSL**.

- Confiscate the device and report the incident to the DSL (or equivalent) immediately, who will decide what to do next. The DSL will make the decision in line with the DfE's latest guidance on [screening, searching and confiscation](#) and the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) guidance on [sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)
- **Never** view, copy, print, share, store or save the imagery themselves, or ask a child to share or download – **this is illegal** (see note below).
- If a member of staff has already viewed the imagery by accident (e.g. if a young person has showed it before they could be asked not to), report this to the DSL (or equivalent) and seek support.
- **Do not** delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it.
- **Do not** ask the child/children or young person(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL (or equivalent).
- **Do not** share information about the incident with 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 [Challenging victim-blaming attitudes \(ceopeducation.co.uk\)](#)
- **Do** explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL (or equivalent).
- Be aware that the prosecution or criminalisation of children for taking indecent images of themselves and sharing them should be avoided where possible. Being prosecuted through the criminal justice system is likely to be upsetting and distressing for children and young people especially if they are convicted and punished. The label of sex offender that would be applied to a child or young person convicted of such offences is regrettable, unjust and clearly detrimental to their future health and wellbeing

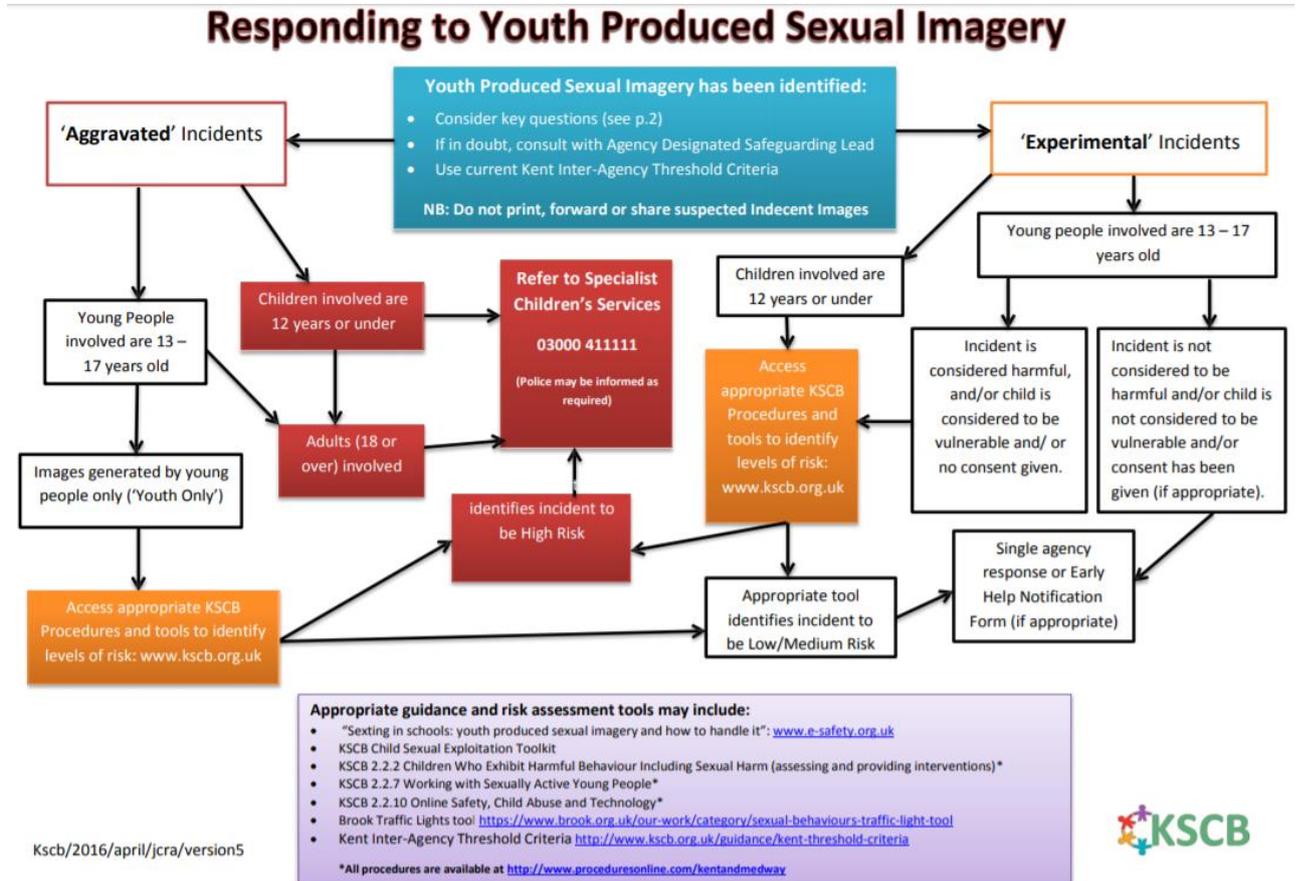
DSLs will respond to concerns in line with the non-statutory UKCIS guidance: '[Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people](#)' and the local [KSCMP](#) guidance. When made aware of a concern involving consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nude images and/or videos:

- The DSL will hold an initial review meeting to explore the context and ensure appropriate and proportionate safeguarding action is taken in the best interests of any child involved. This may mean speaking with relevant staff and the children involved as appropriate.
- Parents/carers will be informed at an early stage and be involved in the process to best support children, unless there is good reason to believe that involving them would put a child at risk of harm.
- All decisions and action taken will be recorded in line with our child protection procedures.
- A referral will be made to ICS via the Children's Portal and/or the police immediately if:
 - the incident involves an adult (over 18).
 - there is reason to believe that a child has been coerced, blackmailed, or groomed, or there are concerns about their capacity to consent, for example, the age of the child or they have special educational needs.
 - the image/videos involve sexual acts and a child under the age of thirteen, depict sexual acts which are unusual for the child's developmental stage, or are violent.
 - a child is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes.
- The DSL may choose to involve other agencies at any time if further information/concerns are disclosed at a later date.

- If DSLs are unsure if a request for support is appropriate, advice may be sought from the Front Door Service.

NB: professionals must not **print, forward, distribute or save any images or content believed to be an indecent image unless Police advice has been given.**

[Report Remove \(iwf.org.uk\)](http://iwf.org.uk) is a tool which young people aged over 13 can ask to have an image removed. This information can be shared with parents/carers to enable the image to be removed where it is illegal.



Educating children about sharing nudes and semi-nudes

KCSIE states that schools 'should ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety'. Teaching about safeguarding issues can prevent harm by providing children with the skills, knowledge and attributes they need to be safe online in an age appropriate way. This is taught through the SRE curriculum and staff can use resources from Education for a connected world which sets out support for teaching Online relationships.

This is underpinned by teaching:

Online relationships

I can explain the importance of having a choice and giving others a choice online.	I can describe the benefits of communicating with a partner online.	I can give examples of how harmful online sexual behaviour can occur and can critically assess the potential harm.
I can explain how and why people who communicate with others through online platforms may try to influence others negatively and I can offer examples. e.g. racist / homophobic comments, social influencers sharing weight loss products, grooming; radicalisation; coercion.	I can explain how relationships can safely begin (online dating), develop, be maintained, changed and end online.	I can explain what is meant by making and sharing explicit images and videos (e.g. nudes and upskirting), I can identify different contexts in which this can happen (e.g. consensual, non-consensual), explain a range of possible impacts and identify strategies for seeking help.
I can explain strategies for assessing the degree of trust I place in people or organisations online.	I can recognise harmful language of a discriminatory nature and harassment online and who can support people if this occurs (e.g. homophobia, name-calling, threatening to 'out' someone , threatening violence).	I can describe the laws that govern online behaviour and how they inform what is acceptable or legal (e.g. sexting and related terminology, trolling, harassment, stalking).
I can describe some signs of harmful online situations e.g. sexual harassment, grooming, cyberbullying.	I can describe different ways someone can give, gain or deny consent online and explain why context is important for assessing this.	
I can assess when I need to take action and explain what to do if I am concerned about my own or someone else's online relationship.	I can explain the differences between active, passive and assumed consent online.	
	I can explain why we have a collective responsibility to gain consent before sharing or forwarding information online (e.g. personal details, images etc.)	
	I can give examples of how to make positive contributions to online debates and discussions.	
	I can give examples where positive contributions have effected change in an online community.	

It is important that learning outcomes are interpreted within contexts that are relevant to the learner's experience and are achieved through learning that is matched to the readiness of the learner.

4 - 7	7 - 11	11 - 14	14 - 18
-------	--------	---------	---------

- understanding healthy relationships including trust
- understanding and respecting the concept of consent
- understanding our rights (especially our collective right to be safe and to feel safe)
- recognising and challenging abusive and coercive language and behaviours
- recognising and challenging victim blaming and harmful societal norms such as 'slut-shaming'
- accepting our responsibilities (especially our responsibility to respect others trust and protect their right to be physically, emotionally and socially safe)
- Without this underpinning learning, specific learning about the sharing of nudes and semi-nudes may have limited impact.

Guidance for parents to support conversations

[cco talking to your child about online sexual harassment a-guide for parents dec 2021.pdf](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/cco_talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_a-guide_for_parents_dec_2021.pdf)
([childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk))

[cco talking to your child about online sexual harassment poster for parents 2021.pdf](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/cco_talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_poster_for_parents_2021.pdf)
([childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk))