Sharing nudes and semi-nudes (KCSIE 2026)

Key Principles

- Creating or sharing nudes/semi-nudes of anyone under 18 is illegal – even if consensual.
- Sexual images of children may be real, digitally altered or AI-generated. All must be treated the same.
- Staff must maintain an attitude of "it could happen here".
- All concerns must be reported to the DSL immediately and recorded on CPOMS.
- Children must never be blamed or shamed.

Definitions (KCSIE 2026)

Nudes/semi-nudes: Images, videos or live streams showing a child (under 18) nude, semi-nude or in a sexualised pose. Includes content that is:

- taken by the child
- taken by someone else
- digitally manipulated
- wholly generated using AI (deepfakes, nudification apps)

Sharing intimate images of adults without consent is **Intimate Image Abuse**.

Why Children Share Images

Motivations may include:

- social pressure
- coercion
- flirting or relationship milestones
- curiosity
- peer influence
- manipulation or bullying
- AI-generated sexualisation of a peer

This can occur in primary as well as secondary settings.

Staff Actions if a Device May Contain a Nude/Semi-Nude Image

Do immediately:

- **Confiscate the device** to preserve evidence.
- **Inform the DSL straight away.**
- Reassure the child and explain you must pass it on.

Do NOT:

- **view, copy, save, print or share** the image (including AI-generated).
- ask the child to show or describe the image.
- delete the image or ask the child to delete it.
- investigate yourself or question other children.
- share information with staff or parents unless directed by DSL.
- blame or shame any child involved.

If you accidentally see an image (e.g., a child shows it unexpectedly), report to the DSL immediately.

DSL Response (KCSIE 2026)

The DSL will:

- hold an initial review meeting
- speak with relevant staff/children as appropriate
- inform parents/carers unless this increases risk
- record all decisions on CPOMS
- consider Early Help / Family Help/Family Hub
- follow KCSIE 2026 Part Five and KSCMP procedures

Immediate referral to ICS and/or police if:

- an adult is involved
- coercion, blackmail or grooming is suspected
- capacity to consent is unclear (age, SEND)
- the image involves sexual acts with a child under 13
- the image is violent or developmentally inappropriate
- a child is at immediate risk of harm

Professionals must **not** print, forward or save images unless police instruct otherwise.

Education & Prevention

Teaching is delivered through RSE and *Education for a Connected World*, focusing on:

- healthy relationships
- trust and respect
- consent
- rights and safety
- challenging coercive or abusive behaviour
- challenging misogyny, victim-blaming and harmful norms
- responsibilities to protect others' safety

Children must understand that AI-generated sexual images are **illegal** and harmful.

Support for Children

Support may include:

- trusted adults
- Early Help / Family Help
- Children's Social Work Service
- CAMHS
- specialist sexual violence services
- **Report Remove (IWF)** for children aged 13+

Filtering & Monitoring (KCSIE 2026)

Where incidents involve online sexual harm, including AI-generated content, the DSL will:

- review filtering & monitoring systems
- strengthen controls where needed
- ensure governors oversee the annual filtering & monitoring review

Bourne Alliance
Multi Academy Trust

Policy document for: **Nudes and semi-nudes**
Updated: Autumn 2026

*This policy forms part of the Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. All staff must read **Part 1** of KCSIE as a minimum, and DSLs must be fully familiar with **Part Five: Child-on-child sexual harassment and sexual violence**.*

Definitions (KCSIE 2026)

The term **"**sharing nudes and semi-nudes" refers to the creating, sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams of or by children under 18. This includes sharing via:

- social media
- messaging apps
- gaming platforms
- chat apps
- online forums
- offline transfer methods (e.g., AirDrop)

KCSIE 2026 confirms that nudes/semi-nudes may be:

- taken by the child
- taken by someone else
- **digitally altered**
- **wholly generated using artificial intelligence** (deepfakes, "deep nudes", nudification apps)

All must be treated **exactly the same** as real images.

Creating or sharing nudes/semi-nudes of under-18s — **including those created with consent** — is illegal. Sharing intimate images of anyone over 18 without consent is **Intimate Image Abuse**

Motivations for Sharing Nudes and Semi-Nudes

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
- relationship milestones
- curiosity
- peer influence

Although more common in secondary settings, staff must recognise this can occur in **primary** settings.

Images may also be shared when:

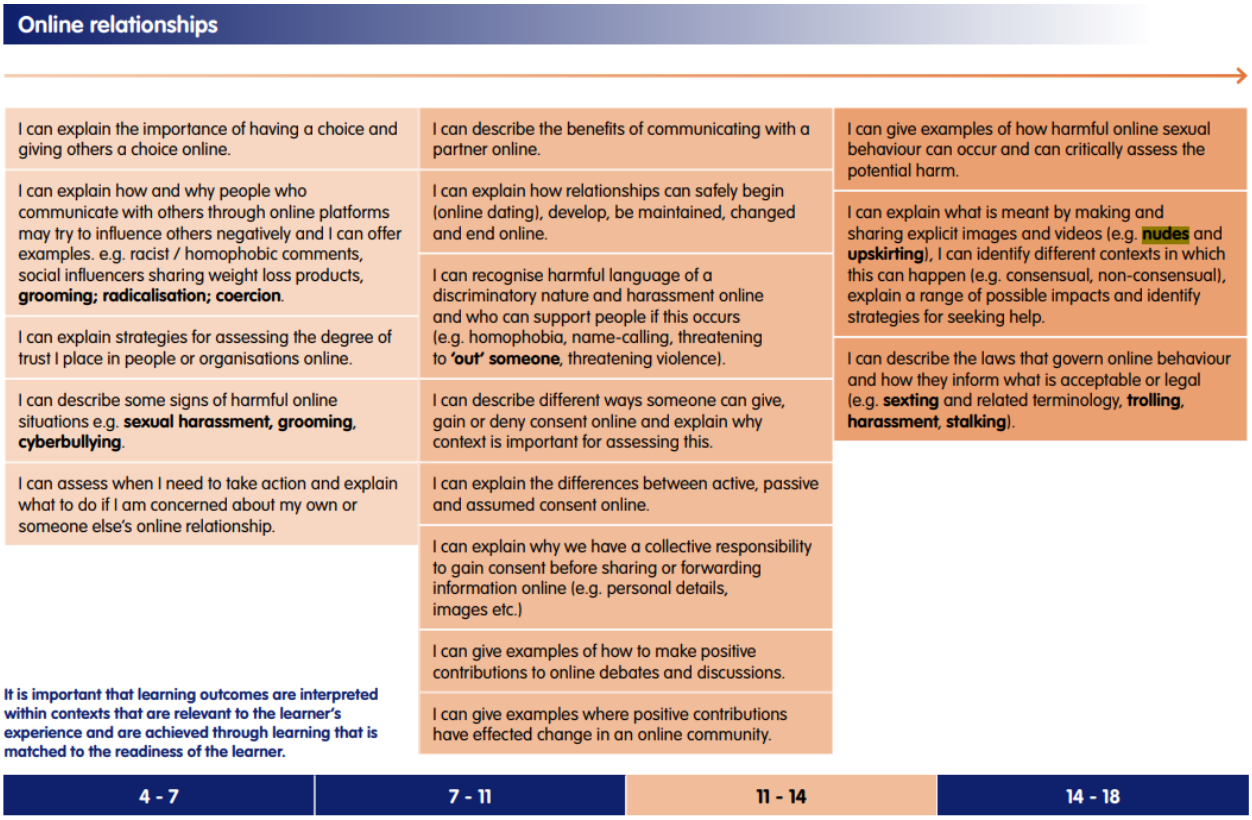
- children find nudes/semi-nudes online and claim they belong to a peer

- children digitally manipulate an image of a peer into an existing nude
- images are used to abuse peers (selling images, sharing without consent, public shaming)
- images are created using **AI tools** to imitate or sexualise a child

BA MAT schools recognise that consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes/semi-nudes is a **safeguarding issue** and must be reported to the DSL.

Educating Children About Nudes and Semi-Nudes

KCSIE 2026 requires schools to teach children about safeguarding, including online safety. This learning is delivered through the **RSE curriculum**, supported by *Education for a Connected World*.



Teaching is underpinned by helping children understand:

- healthy relationships and trust
- understanding and respecting the concept of consent
- recognising and challenging abusive or coercive language and behaviours
- challenging victim-blaming, sexist language and harmful norms (including misogyny and "slut-shaming")
- accepting our responsibilities (especially our responsibility to respect others' trust and protect their right to be physically, emotionally and socially safe)
- responsibilities to respect others' trust and safety

Without this foundation, specific teaching about nudes/semi-nudes has limited impact.

Updated Online Safety Risks (KCSIE 2026)

Teaching must also reflect the updated 4Cs:

- **Content risk** – sexualised content, including AI-generated images
- **Contact risk** – harmful contact, including AI-simulated grooming
- **Conduct risk** – creating or sharing sexual images, including AI-generated

- **Commerce risk** – financial exploitation linked to sexualised content

Children must understand that:

- nudes/semi-nudes may be digitally altered
- sexual images may be wholly generated using AI
- AI-generated sexual images of children are **illegal**
- sharing any sexual image of a child (real or AI-generated) is a **criminal offence**

Staff Actions When a Device May Contain a Nude/Semi-Nude Image

If staff suspect a device contains a nude or semi-nude image of a child they must:

Immediate actions

- **Contact the DSL immediately.**
- **Confiscate the device** to preserve evidence.
- Do explain to the child that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSL (or equivalent).
- DSL decides next steps in line with KCSIE 2026 and DfE Searching, Screening & Confiscation guidance.

Staff must NOT:

- **view, copy, print, share, store or save** the image — including **AI-generated** images
- ask the child to show or download the image
- delete the image or ask the child to delete it
- ask the child to describe the image
- share information with other staff or parents/carers (unless directed by DSL)
- Say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved Challenging victim-blaming attitudes (ceopeducation.co.uk)
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If staff accidentally view an image (e.g., a child shows it unexpectedly), they must:

- report immediately to the DSL
- seek support if needed

Important legal note. Children should **not** be criminalised for creating or sharing images of themselves. Responses must be protective, proportionate and trauma-informed.

DSL Response (KCSIE 2026)

DSLs respond in line with:

- **KCSIE 2026 Part Five**
- **KSCMP** procedures

Initial DSL actions

- Hold an **initial review meeting** to understand context.
- Speak with relevant staff and children as appropriate.
- Inform parents/carers early unless doing so places a child at risk.
- Record all decisions and actions on **CPOMS**.

Mandatory referral to ICS and/or police if:

- the incident involves an adult
- coercion, blackmail or grooming is suspected
- concerns exist about capacity to consent (age, SEND)
- the image involves sexual acts with a child under 13
- the image depicts sexual acts unusual for developmental stage
- the image is violent
- a child is at immediate risk of harm

The DSL may involve other agencies at any point if further concerns arise. If unsure, the DSL will seek advice from the **Front Door Service**.

Important KCSIE 2026 update

Professionals must **not** print, forward, distribute or save any images unless police instruct otherwise.

Support for Children

Young people aged 13+ can use **Report Remove (IWF)** to request removal of illegal images. Schools may share this information with parents/carers.

Support may include:

- Early Help / Family Help
- Children's Social Work Service
- CAMHS
- specialist sexual violence services
- trusted adults in school

Guidance for parents to support conversations

cco_talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_a-guide_for_parents_dec_2021.pdf (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

cco_talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_poster_for_parents_2021.pdf (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

Filtering & Monitoring (KCSIE 2026 Requirement)

Where incidents involve online sexual harm, including AI-generated content, the DSL must ensure filtering & monitoring systems are reviewed and strengthened. DSLs must contact Primary Technology and engage them in updating and reviewing the Watchguard system.

Governors oversee the annual filtering & monitoring review required by KCSIE 2026.

Recording and Review

All concerns, decisions and actions must be recorded on CPOMS. Records must be factual, clear and reflect the rationale for decisions.

The DSL will review patterns, contextual factors and any cultural issues that may require curriculum, pastoral or staff training responses.