



Sexting

What is sexting? Swapping sexual images by picture message, email, app or social network

Is it legal?

- Indecent photos of under18s are images of child abuse
- Taking the photo is illegal
- Sending the photo to someone else is illegal
- Sharing the photo further is illegal

Why is this a problem?

- The minute an image is passed on you have lost control of it
- Images remain in cyberspace for a long time – forever?
- 88% of illegal images of teenagers are 'home made' and a majority are stolen (IWF Oct 2012 – following an analysis of 12,000 images)
- Cyberbullying is very often associated with sexting
- While prosecutions are unlikely the police are often involved
- Sexting attracts paedophiles
- Sexting images that are shared may end up on sex sites and tagged with a young person's name

How common is it?

- A recent survey showed 40% of young people have been involved in sexting, or aware of friends sexting (SWGFL 2012)
- 30% of young people know someone who has been adversely affected by sexting

What if it isn't a picture of you?

- The image would still be tagged with your name
- In sourcing the image you would be visiting illegal child abuse sites
- This could bring your whole family under suspicion
- The police would be involved

Where to get help

- Talk to a trusted adult
- Talk to the Police
- Log onto CyberMentors – talk to someone of your age
- Keep your private life private

Internet Watch Foundation

<http://www.iwf.org.uk/>
report illegal content

CEOP

<http://ceop.police.uk/>
advice, help, report

Cybermentors

<http://www.beatbullying.org/>

Police – *ring 101*

Securus:

'Sexting' in schools: advice and support around self-generated images: What to do and how to handle it'

www.securus-software.com/DownloadableContent/sexting.zip

Keep your private life private

