

WHAT IS SEXTING?



Sexting is when a sexual message, photo or video is sent to someone else. It could be a picture of you, but sometimes it could be a picture of someone else possibly another peer that is circulated around a peer group.

Images, messages and videos can be sent to other peers, boyfriends/girlfriends, partners or someone you know or don't know online.

Young people can send nude images using phones, tablets and laptops and can share them across any app, site or game, including during a livestream. It could include sharing them across devices using offline services like Airdrop or Bluetooth.

Children and young people may agree to sending a nude image of themselves. They can also be forced or coerced into sharing images by their peers or adults online.

WHAT DOES SEXTING INCLUDE?



- **Being partly or completely naked, or in your underwear**
- **Posing in a sexual position**
- **Sending 'nudes'**
- **Talking about sexual things you're doing or want to do**
- **Doing sexual things on a live stream, video or photo**

NSPCC

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety/sexting-sharing-nudes-semi-nudes>

**PARENT
RESOURCES**

**internet
matters.org**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/can-i-i-suspect-child-sexting/>

5 FACTS ABOUT SEXTING

FACTS!

Images sent on sites like Snapchat can still be screenshot and saved

Not everyone in a relationship will share or want to share nudes

It's not okay for someone to pressure you into sending a nude picture

If something goes wrong, there is support to help

Sending or receiving a nude when your under 18 is against the law - this includes selfies too.

THE RISKS OF SHARING NUDE IMAGES

- **Bullying/Blackmail** - Images/videos/messages can be shared without consent
- **Receiving images/videos/message** from a peer or in a group chat
- **Loosing Control** - Once a image/video/message is shared, it is possible that it may be copied or saved by other people, if shared widely online there could be a worry about it being shared again in the future.
- **Explicit content** can spread very quickly and affect a young persons reputation both now and in the future. It could also affect their education and employment prospects.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I AM BEING PRESSURED INTO SENDING NUDE IMAGES OR VIDEOS

1. **Ask the person to stop** - make your boundaries clear
2. **If you have asked them to stop and their behaviour does not change**, you may want to keep the messages and speak to a trusted adult.
3. **Think before you send** - Ask yourself 'would I be fine with everyone seeing this?'
4. **A relationship is built on trust, support and understanding** - communication is key to a healthy relationship. If someone is putting pressure on you in a relationship, talk to an adult you trust.



WHAT IS SEXTORTION?



Sexually coerced extortion or 'sextortion' is where someone tries to use intimate, naked or sexual photos/videos of you to make you do things you don't want to do. Sometimes, these photos/videos are taken without you knowing, and often includes the person blackmailing you using them to force you to pay money or do something you may not want to do.

Victims of sextortion are often targeted on dating apps, social media platforms, webcam/live streaming sites or websites related to pornography. Criminals can often pretend to be someone else online where they try to befriend you. They might threaten to share pictures/videos with your family and friends.

Globally, there has been a large increase in reports of children and young people being victims of financially motivated sexual extortion.

TIPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

TIPS

- 1. Talk about what's ok/not to share, talk about sextortion and how it happens**
- 2. Talk about how to report things and where they can find support**
- 3. Show them how to set accounts to private or adjust settings to limit contact with people they don't know.**

If you are under 18, you can report sextortion, or any other form of online child sexual abuse, to the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Safety Centre

The Internet Watch Foundation have resources and support videos available to help parents/carers have conversations around this topic and also support for children and young people who may be a victim of this crime.

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/sextortion/>

