

## **Sharing nudes – Updated information from the DfE - Update for DSLs Jan 21**

This is a quick summary of the advice published by the DfE on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020. The DfE advice is guidance and is not statutory.

Link :- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>

### **Information for all Staff**

There is little change for most staff – but they should be reminded that: -

- *Never view, copy, print, share, store or save 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 shown it to you before you could ask them 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.*
- *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)*

### **Information for DSLs**

There are some slight changes and additional advice which may be useful. DSLs will need to be familiar with the whole document – but this is a summary of key guidance/changes:

- This only applies to YP under the age of 18 creating/sharing/receiving nudes of a YP. It does not apply to children sharing adult pornography.
- On any occasion when an adult is in possession of or is sharing an illegal image of a YP – this will always be an urgent police matter.
- The advice replaces ‘Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people’ published in 2016 by UKCIS in collaboration with the NPCC and Charlotte Aynsley.

### **Information**

Contrary to media hype only a minority of YP either have sent or received a nude.

### Defining the Incident (Section 1.6)

*in order to decide the most appropriate action the school will have to decide if the image is:-*

- Experimental ( With no intent to harm ) *or*
- Aggravated ( With some additional abusive elements )

*The DSL will need to read the full guidance for detailed explanations*

### Initial Response (Section 2.1)

- The DSL will need to hold an initial review meeting – section 2.3 of the advice gives full details about what should be discussed, investigated and decided.

An immediate referral to MASH or Police should take place if :-

- There is adult involvement
- There is reason to believe there was not consent
- Images unusual for the age of the YP or are violent
- Images involve sexual acts and any pupil us under 13
- You believe there is a risk of harm to the YP

If none of the above apply a school may decide to respond to the incident without contacting the police or social services. See section 2.4 assessing risks.

- All incidents should be recorded along with clear information about the reasons why a decision was taken (for instance to or not to notify the police)

### Supporting the YP (section 2.5)

It is vitally important to support the YP involved – and find out enough about the incident to take appropriate actions

### Contacting and supporting parents (section 2.6 and 2.7)

Parents should be informed at an early stage unless it will put a YP at risk of harm

### Searching devices, viewing and deleting images (section 2.10)

Wherever possible images should not be viewed.

If a decision is made that the image needs to be viewed, for instance if there is conflicting information the procedures in section 2.10 must be followed very carefully.

### Education (Section 3)

Learning about nudes should be part of the schools RSE curriculum – section 3 provides more details.

**NOTICE – THIS IS A SUMMARY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED WITHOUT REFERING TO THE MAIN DOCUMENT**