Once a message or image has been shared, the sender has no control about how it’s used. Sexting can leave a child vulnerable to bullying, blackmail, online grooming or abuse. It’s also a criminal offence to create or share explicit images of a child, even if the person doing it is a child.

Sexting

Live and Learn Sports

Safeguarding Children

Partnership 2020

2. Why it matters

Sexting is the exchange of sexual messages or self-generated sexual images or videos through a mobile phone network or the internet.

1. Background

A drawing of a cartoon character

Description automatically generated

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999. If you're worried about a child but they are not in immediate danger, you should share your concerns.

**Follow your organisational child protection procedures**

**Contact the NSPCC Helpline** on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

**Contact your local child protection services**

**Inform CEOP** (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) of the incident. You can [report on their website](https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/).

7. What to do and how to report =

Most young people do not see anything wrong with sexting but it’s illegal and has a number of consequences. It is sexual exploitation and can lead to more serious implications.

It is worrying that so many young people think it’s a normal part of a relationship. They don’t realise it is a criminal offence.

3. Information

RSCB

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board –

7-minute Briefing

If a young person tells you they’ve been involved with sexting, it's important to remain calm and be understanding. You should follow your organisation's policy and procedures and make your nominated child protection lead aware of the situation as soon as possible. Try to find out

* If it’s an image, video or message
* Who sent it
* Who’s featured in it
* How widely has it been shared and with whom
* Are any adults involved

6. Questions - If a child speaks up

Sexting is defined as images or videos generated by children under the age of 18; of children under the age of 18 that are of a sexual nature or are indecent. It refers to sending and receiving, naked pictures or nudes, underwear shots, sexual or dirty pics, nude text messages or videos. They can be sent from a friend, boyfriend, girlfriend, someone that has been met online, over text or instant messenger.

5. Information

Sexting is becoming a massive issue that children and young people are facing locally and is becoming an increasing area of concern.

The National Crime Agency recently reported that child protection officers are investigating an average of one case involving sexting every day.

4. Information