



SEXTING POLICY

Definition

This document sets out the College's approach to youth produced sexual imagery, often known as sexting.

When we refer to "sexting" in this policy we mean children sharing sexual images that they, or another child, have created of themselves.

In this policy:

- References to "sexual" images or imagery means any sexual images of children (including sexually explicit or suggestive images and images that show nudity, semi-nudity, sexual parts, sex acts, or simulated sex).
- The term "sexting" is not limited to images that are considered to be 'indecent'. (A judgement of whether something is 'decent' is both a value judgement and dependent on context.)
- "Imagery" and "images" includes both still photos and videos.

Types of incidents covered by this policy

Yes:	<p>A pupil creates and shares sexual imagery of themselves with a peer (also under the age of 18).</p> <p>A pupil shares sexual imagery created by another child with a peer (also under the age of 18) or an adult.</p> <p>A pupil is in possession of sexual imagery created by another child.</p>
No:	<p>Children sharing adult pornography or exchanging sexual texts which do not contain imagery.</p> <p>Sexual imagery downloaded from the internet by a pupil.</p> <p>Sexual imagery downloaded from the internet by a child and shared with a peer (also under the age of 18) or an adult.</p> <p>Adults sharing sexual imagery of children. This is child sexual abuse and schools should always inform the police.</p>

Our approach

The College is very aware of the growing practice of sexting and the serious harm it can cause. The College has produced guidance for pupils regarding the dangers of sexting. The College has regard to the guidance published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, which is available [here](#).

Disclosure

Disclosure about sexting can happen in a variety of ways. The pupil affected may inform any member of staff. They may report through an existing reporting structure, or a friend or parent may inform someone in the College or colleague, or inform the police directly.

All members of staff (including non-teaching staff) are aware of how to recognise and the need to refer any disclosure of incidents involving sexting. This will be covered within staff training and within the College's [Safeguarding Policy](#).

Any direct disclosure by a pupil is taken very seriously. A pupil who discloses they are the subject of sexual imagery is likely to be embarrassed and worried about the consequences. It is likely that disclosure in school is a last resort and they may have already tried to resolve the issue themselves.

Handling incidents

When such an incident involving sexting comes to a member of staff's attention, this will be shared with a [designated safeguarding lead](#) with a view to referring to appropriate agencies following the referral procedures, where appropriate.

Education

Teaching about safeguarding issues in the classroom can prevent harm by providing pupils with skills, attributes and knowledge to help them navigate risks. The College provides its pupils with opportunities to learn about the issue of sexting, as part of its commitment to ensure that they are taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities.