

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 23rd 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 REFERRING TO THE MAIN DOCUMENT