

What is Sexting?

Sexting is sending sexually explicit messages and/or suggestive images. One example that you may have heard of is 'nudes'. Despite the name, sexting is not only limited to mobile phones, images can be sent through any messaging service, including emails and social media such as Facebook or Whatsapp.

What's wrong with doing it?

The short answer is: **a lot**. The law says that it is illegal for children under the age of 18 to take an explicit photo of themselves OR a friend, sharing these images is also illegal.

What kinds of images are considered Sexting?

These include but are not limited to:

- Suggestive images
- Photos of girls where the upper body is exposed
- Pictures showing explicit actions
- Any image of private body parts

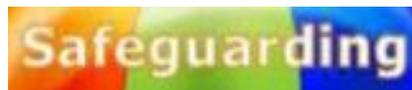


If a child under the age of 18 is found in possession of any sexual images, this can be recorded as a crime, meaning that if you take or share any of these types of image, you will be given a criminal record.

Apart from being illegal, what are the other implications of sexting?

Sexting has affected both young people and adults in terrible ways. After taking inappropriate images, many have become victims of having those images shared publicly on social media, where their family and friends can see them.

It doesn't end there. Many employers when considering job applicants will check to see if they have any social media accounts and what type of content they are posting. If there are nude images online of an applicant, they will be able to see these as well. What seems like a harmless activity can actually affect your life for many years beyond the actual photo being taken.



Sometimes things can happen to make you worried, upset or afraid, we want to ensure that you feel supported and at Loxford we have an 'open door policy' to ensure that you are protected.

Remember, you don't need anybody's permission to talk about your worries and you have the right to talk to anyone you wish.

Other useful contacts:

Childline: 0800 1111 – Online counselling for young people: www.kooth.com

CEOP: You can report internet abuse at the click of a button. Use: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

NHS Direct: 0845 46 47

The Samaritans: 08457 90 90 90

Talk to Frank: If you would like to know more information from the UK government backed site covering all drug related questions in a no nonsense frank way, you can call FRANK free, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Talk to Frank: 0800 77 66 00

FGM (Female Genital Mutilation): If you are worried that you or someone you know is being prepared for FGM.

FGM contact: 0800 028 3550 – 24 hours a day. Part of the NSPCC