

Sharing Images ('Nudes') Online

Advice for parents and carers of children aged 11+



By taking an active role in supervising how your child uses digital devices and the internet, and putting in place parental controls, you can help to keep your child safe while they're online.

Parental controls

Before allowing your child to use a device, familiarize yourself with it and make sure appropriate settings are in place, such as adult content filters. Please visit the following website for tips: [Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

Having a conversation

Talking to your child about how to use digital devices and the internet safely is the first step in making sure they know they can ask you for help if they encounter digital content that worries them or if someone asks them to do something they aren't comfortable with. It's crucial to talk about what is and isn't safe to share online, and it's important for them to remember that not everyone online is who they say they are. Remind your child that they can always turn to [Childline](#) if they feel they can't talk to a trusted adult.

The following weblinks offer tips and resources in how to approach this topic with your child:

[Having a conversation with your child \(CEOP Education\)](#)

[Nude selfies: a parents' guide \(CEOP Education\)](#)

Sharing sexual images – what does the law say?

It is against the law to download, make, or share sexual images or videos if the person in them is under 18 or the person receiving them is under 18, even if the person in the image is the sender. A sexual image could be nude, partially nude, or with the person posing in a sexual manner. Increasingly, young people consider it a reasonable part of a relationship to send nudes of themselves to each other without understanding the consequences. Once an image is sent the sender loses control of it: a screenshot can be taken, they can be altered, shared further by others – even ending up in the possession of sex offenders – and the personal consequences can be far reaching. Ultimately, police are interested in safeguarding children involved in this activity and it's often not proportionate to criminalise a child for sending a sexual image of themselves. Consider watching the following video with your child: [Megan's Story: "Sending Nudes - It Happened To Me" - YouTube](#)

Sextortion – Financially motivated Sexual Extortion

This form of online blackmail – when scammers hold sexual images of their target for ransom – can happen to anyone of any age, but it most commonly affects those aged 15-17 and adults under 30. Find out more by visiting [this website](#). The following website contains information and support for both adults and under 18s who are concerned about sexually coerced extortion: ['Sextortion' or online blackmail - IWF](#).

How to get an image removed that has been shared digitally

It's important that young people know that there is a way to get their image removed as this may encourage them to seek help if it has happened or does happen to them: Visit [Report Remove - Childline](#) for more information.

How to report sexual images of a child found on a device and further information

DO NOT delete them. Work can be done to remove the images from the internet and it may be possible to safeguard the child in the image. If you believe that a child is in immediate danger, dial 999. Alternatively, dial 101 or [report it to Northumbria Police online](#). The IWF's [TALK campaign](#) includes [a parents' and carers' guide](#) to how to keep children safe from online sexual abusers.