



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Updated Safeguarding Information for Parents - 25th March 2024

How much do you know about Sextortion?

Data published by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) showed that in 2023, 176 reports of sexual extortion contained CSA material - over eight times the previous year. Boys are targeted most often in the reports received by the IWF, with three in five reports involving 16 and 17 year olds.

[What You Should Know About Sextortion](#) is a valuable resource dedicated to help improve your knowledge and understanding on how you can help protect those in your care.

Safeguarding Alert

[Learn about the alarming rise of the chroming challenge](#), understand the associated dangers and get expert tips for parents, caregivers and safeguarding professionals on protecting children and young people from these risks.



What You Should Know About... **Sextortion**

What is it?

Sextortion is a 'cyber-enabled crime' in which victims are lured into sharing intimate photos/videos or behaving in a sexual way in front of a camera. Unbeknownst to the victims, their actions have been recorded or saved by criminals who blackmail the victim by threatening to release the image or footage.



How to Protect

There are steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim of sextortion:

- ✗ **DON'T** share intimate photos or videos or
- ✗ **DON'T** agree to requests for nude photos or intimate acts over a video call.
- ✗ **DON'T** accept friend requests/messages
- ✗ **DON'T** include sensitive and/or personal information
- ✓ **DO** remember that anyone who truly can do something uncomfortable.
- ✓ **DO** be mindful of who you accept as friends
- ✓ **DO** strengthen your social media privacy
- ✓ **DO** question who it is you are really speaking to

How does it happen?

Victims are usually targeted in online spaces - such as social media platforms or dating apps.

The offender often uses a fake identity to seem more appealing to potential victims. Once a victim has been targeted, offenders quickly befriend them before the blackmail begins.

During the 'friendship', the offender will introduce the topic of sex and begin encouraging the victim to remove items of clothing while on camera or to send them a nude image.

After the victim has done so, the offender reveals they have recorded the entire interaction and threatens to publicly expose the victim if they do not either send a sum of money or more photos/videos.

It is illegal to create, possess or distribute indecent images of children. In situations where a child has taken and shared a nude image of themselves, the law does not unfairly punish that child and will handle their case sensitively.

Help and Advice

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sextortion, you are not alone. Stay calm and take the following steps:

- 🚫 **IGNORE** their demands and threats
- 🚫 **END** all communication with the offender
- 📸 **CAPTURE** evidence of blackmail
- 🗣️ **TALK** to a trusted friend or family member
- 👮 **CONTACT** the police immediately
- 🚫 **BLOCK** the offender on all social media
- 📢 **REPORT** the individual to the relevant platform
- 🤔 **CONSIDER** if you or the offender are in any danger

FACT

Remember
You are not alone. It promptly stop the perpetrator.

The Impact of Sextortion

Once the victim realises what has happened, panic sets in and they are left feeling violated, afraid, embarrassed, ashamed, alone, or even suicidal.

Support

If you are feeling overwhelmed, there are people who can help. **There is always hope and help available.**



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