

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our latest e-safety Bulletin. You can find help and advice from the links provided on our school website. We hope you find this bulletin useful.

The E-safety Team - M Miles, S Kiff, M McKibbens

SEXTING—the new rules

A study undertaken by the NSPCC showed that 1 in 8 children (13%) had taken topless photos of themselves and 3% had taken a naked shot. Of those who had taken sexual images over half had shared the image with others.

These figures may seem lower than you might have thought with the majority of young people not sharing naked images, but the pressures for them to do so are there with 6 out of 10 saying they have been asked for them.

What parents need to know

In the guidance available the term 'sexting' is replaced with 'youth produced sexual imagery'. This term is given to images and video that is either owned, shared or created by young people under 18 years of age.

It is illegal to create or share sexually explicit images of people (or yourself). The law is designed to protect children (anyone under 18) from adult sexual predators. Even if the police do find out about a young person sexting it may not result in a criminal conviction

What can you do

- Discuss the law with them and explain that it is there to protect them from unscrupulous or controlling adults
- Encourage them to question why someone might ask for nude images and what they would do if the images fell into the wrong hands
- If you discover that your child or another has shared an image of your child, talk to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead or a teacher you trust. The Safeguarding leads at Baycroft are: M. Miles, C. Sidney, M. Hanlon J. Povey, S. Kiff, and L. Richards

When to call the police

If you discover that an adult has shared a sexual image with your child or shared one of them or asked them to send them one or there has been any blackmail or coercion you can report it to CEOP at www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Help and advice

The **NSPCC** and **O2** have an online safety line where you can get advice on setting up parental controls, adjusting privacy settings or getting advice on social networks.

Reporting Abuse CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) is a division of the National Crime Agency who protect children online and offline. Anyone can report abuse, from Cyber bullying to Sexting by using their reporting system at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

CYBER BULLYING

What is it? Cyber bullying is any form of bullying that is carried out through the use of electronic media devices, such as computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, or gaming consoles

Spotting the signs You know your child best so will be aware if something seems wrong.

The type of behaviour that might be an indication of bullying includes

- a reluctance to go to school;
- unexplained tummy upsets or headaches;
- showing signs of distress on a Sunday night or at the end of school holidays;
- becoming either quiet or withdrawn, or playing up;
- torn clothes and missing belongings;
- seeming upset after using their phone, tablets, computers etc.

What to do

- Reassure them that it was the right thing to do to tell you. Try and find out the facts. It can be helpful to keep a diary of events to share with the school or college.
- Assure them that the bullying is not their fault and that you will support them. Reassure them that you will not take any action without discussing it with them first.
- Don't encourage responding to bullying - such as violent actions. It's important for children to not hit or punch an abusive peer. Reacting that way has negative and unpredictable results- they may be hurt even further, and find that they are labelled as the problem. Rather suggest that they walk away and seek help.
- Find out what your child wants to happen next. Tell them the choices open to them and what to do next
- Let the school know the situation .– Talk to the Tutor or Headteacher. Every child has a right to a safe environment in which to learn and play. Schools must have a behaviour policy which sets out the measures that will be taken to prevent all forms of bullying between students

Live Streaming

What is it? It is the broadcasting of real-time, live video to an audience over the internet. All you need to be able to live stream is an internet enabled device, like a smart phone or tablet, and a platform like Instagram Live, Facebook Live, Periscope, Twitch and YouTube Live.

Why is it so popular? Live streaming is appealing to children and young people because it presents the opportunity for them to be a creator, a presenter and to be seen by an audience. You can broadcast anything you are doing across the world without any delay or editing.

What are the risks? Despite the opportunities that live streaming presents, it is important to remember that live streaming can be unpredictable and hard to moderate which can be worrying There have been stories in the news about live streaming being used to broadcast abusive or harmful behaviour, young people being involved in accidents whilst live-streaming and children viewing inappropriate live streamed content that they weren't expecting to see. There can be risks with live streaming like receiving unkind comments, giving out more personal information than intended and contact from strangers and possible exposure to sexualised content, both visually and through chat. and if the user loses control of streamed video once online, it could be recorded, shared and be used to threaten or blackmail. It is therefore important to have on-going conversations with your child about their internet habits and how they communicate online.