

Painsley Catholic Academy Sexting Procedure

What is 'sexting'?

In the latest advice for schools and colleges (UKCCIS, 2016), sexting is defined as **the production and/or sharing of sexual photos and videos of and by young people who are under the age of 18**. It includes nude or nearly nude images and/or sexual acts. It is also referred to as 'youth produced sexual imagery'.

'Sexting' **does not include the sharing of sexual photos and videos of under-18 year olds with or by adults**. This is a form of child sexual abuse and must be referred to the police.

What to do if an incident involving 'sexting' comes to your attention

- **Immediately report it to your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or in his absence a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.**
- **Never view, download or share 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 showed it to you before you could ask them not to), **report this to the DSL**.
- **Do not** delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it.
- **Do not** ask the young person(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSL.
- **Do not** share information about the incident to 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.