

Sexting

Childnet: Sexting

<https://www.childnet.com/young-people/secondary/hot-topics/sexting>



Sexting

I have heard of sexting, what does it mean?

'Sexting' describes the use of technology to share sexual and sexually implied content. This content includes texts, photos of partial nudity and sexual images or video. This could be shared between partners, peers and strangers. Individuals may use a range of technology to share the content.

The sharing of naked pictures is not a new thing but the speed with which you can share and the potential audience size has dramatically changed as a result of the online world.

So you got naked online?
A practical help guide created by UKSIC for young people, answer some of your questions you may have about sexting

so you got naked online
Advice for Young People
PDF Format (3.34 MB)

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Sexting

Is it really worth it?

Sexting is the sending and receiving of naked pictures or 'nudes', 'underwear shots', sexual or 'dirty pics' or rude text messages or videos. This could be via mobile phones, social networks, emails or social apps such as Facebook or Snapchat.



We've spoken to lots of young people about their reasons for sexting. You might sext a partner, a friend, or someone you've met online to show them you care, to get their attention and boost your self-esteem, or simply for fun if your friends are egging you on. You could also feel pressure to send or receive an image to keep your boyfriend or girlfriend happy, to 'fit in', or because you've been promised that the contents of your message will not be shared with anybody else.

Sending somebody a sexual message or photo might seem necessary or exciting at the time, but it can be dangerous.

Is sexting legal?

The consensual sharing of an image between two teenagers of a similar age in a relationship will not generally be treated as a crime, however, it could be in other scenarios, such as those involving exploitation, grooming or bullying.

What could happen if I send a sext?

Once you have sent your images to somebody, you have lost control of them. You may love or trust that person at the time, but this relationship could break down or you might grow apart. At this point, the respect between you could change and your image might be posted publicly to social networks or porn sites as revenge. It may also be shown to people that you hadn't wanted to see it. This is sexual bullying and can be humiliating.

Everything you do online leaves a digital footprint, and even if you think something has been deleted, it still exists in cyberspace and could resurface in years to come. Your friends, families, teachers, the police, prospective employers... Anybody could see that image of you and it could affect your future.

The consequences can be much scarier too. Police have warned that sexting can expose young adults to the

Bullying

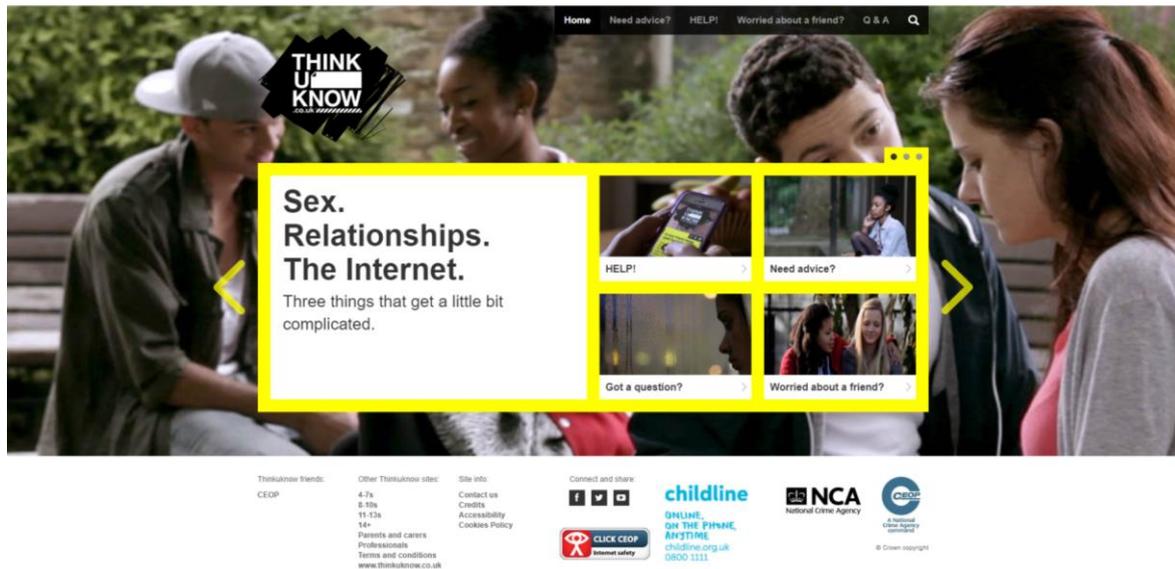
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It's not okay

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