



# THE TRUTH ABOUT TEEN SEXTING



SEXTING IS WHEN SOMEONE SHARES SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MESSAGES, SEXUAL, NAKED OR SEMI-NAKED IMAGES OR VIDEOS OF THEMSELVES OR OTHERS.

**50%**

of teens have received a sexually explicit message.



## WHY DO TEENS SEXT?

There are many reasons why a young person may want to send a naked or semi-naked picture, video or message to someone else.

they may find it difficult to say no if somebody asks them for an explicit image, especially if the person asking is persistent

joining in because they think that **'everyone is doing it'**

boosting their self-esteem

flirting with others and testing their sexual identity

exploring their sexual feelings

to get attention and connect with new people on social media



## THINK BEFORE YOU SNAPCHAT



TEENS THINK IMAGES ONLY LAST A FEW SECONDS, BUT IMAGES CAN BE SAVED BY TAKING A SCREENSHOT OR BY USING A DIFFERENT MOBILE OR CAMERA.

### SHORT TERM CONSEQUENCES



UNINTENDED PEOPLE SEEING YOUR PHOTO



HUMILIATION AT SCHOOL



SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL



A BAD REPUTATION

### LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES



THE IMAGE GOING VIRAL



REJECTION OF UNIVERSITY OR JOB OFFER



CRIMINAL CHARGE OR CONVICTION



PLACED ON SEX OFFENDERS REGISTER

## LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF SENDING SEXUAL IMAGES

Creating or sharing explicit images of a young person is illegal, even if the person doing it is a young person. They are breaking the law if they:

Take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend

Share an explicit photo or video of a young person, even if it's shared between young people of the same age

Possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a young person, even if the young person gave their permission for it to be taken

**SEXUAL IMAGES SHOWING UNDER 18's ARE CONSIDERED CHILD PORNOGRAPHY IN THE LAW. YOU COULD BE CHARGED WITH A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.**



## DANGERS OF SEXTING

No control of images and how they're shared. When images are sent they become public.

### BULLYING

if images are shared with others, the young person maybe bullied.



**1 in 3**

found their partner shared the image with others without their consent.



### UNWANTED ATTENTION

Images posted online can attract the attention of sex offenders, who know how to search for, collect and modify images.



### BLACKMAIL

An offender may threaten to share the pictures with the young persons family & friends, unless they send money or more explicit pictures.



### EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

**98%** of girls that were pressured, felt embarrassed or humiliated after sending, sometimes resulting in self-harm and even suicide.



## HELP! IT'S GONE WRONG

If you have been sexting and it has gone wrong, there are some things you can do to take back control:



If you posted something online, remove it as soon as you can

Ask anyone who has received it to delete it too

Talk to someone you trust, a family member, friend, teacher, school nurse or other trusted adult.

Call the helplines to seek advice



**TALK TO SOMEONE IF YOU FEEL SCARED OR UNCOMFORTABLE**

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND OR SOMEONE ELSE CALL NSPCC

HELPLINE **0800 800 5000**

IF YOU'RE A TEEN & NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE CALL CHILDLINE

HELPLINE **0800 1111**

**#KIDSSAFEZONE**

**NNECA**  
NATIONAL NETWORK TO END CHILD ABUSE

WWW.NNECA.ORG.UK