

Part 6

Protecting your image

The ability to take and share photographs instantly is an extraordinary achievement of the digital age but when it comes to personal images, young people need to consider the potential impact, especially if those images can be considered sexual.

This lesson walks students through a series of scenarios around the sharing of personal photographs and asks them to consider risks associated with each. They then watch and discuss a video about sexting.

To finish, we dig into the different categories that exist around sharing personal images and come up with ideas to avoid making mistakes.

Preparation



Whiteboard,
internet access



Presentation,
Teacher's notes
Worksheet



≈ 45 minutes

Goals



- Increase understanding of the type of content that young people share and with whom
- Consider how images that may be relatively innocent can become viewed as sexual content
- Increase awareness of the content shared and how it may be viewed by others



- Increased understanding of the types of images that should and should not be shared
- Increased understanding of the role of others in spreading images

Slide 5

It's important young people realise that by sharing a sexually explicit image of anyone under the age of 18 - including of themselves - they may be committing a criminal offence.

The law was created to protect young people and so, unless there is some broader reason for concern, the focus will be on safeguarding them.

However, if there are concerns such as coercion, an intent to harm, or the involvement of an adult, then the police will likely need to be involved.

Every school should have an effective child protection policy in place and it may be helpful for you as the teacher to find out what it is and let learners know that it exists.

Students should be reassured that reporting concerns about explicit images to an adult is the right thing to do.

There is extensive advice and a range of resources for both educational establishments and young people over what they should do if explicit images are sent, received or discovered.

The UK government has published a [comprehensive overview](#) with links to other resources, including [Childnet](#) and [Thinkuknow](#).

In general, students should be encouraged not to share explicit images and to delete any that they receive.

If they are concerned, they should report it to an adult who will then run through the child protection policy in place to ensure it is dealt with appropriately.

Sharing **explicit** pictures... and the law

If you share a sexually explicit image of someone - including yourself - who is **under the age of 18**, you are breaking the law

If you receive an image of someone that is sexually explicit and you **pass that image on** you are also breaking the law

5

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- Show the slide
- Discuss what the law says and why they think it is like this (the next activity considers the law)
- Ensure they realise that if they share an image that they have received they are also breaking the law
- Point out that the law is designed to protect young people so if they behave responsibly there is no reason to fear it
- Discuss what can be done and what the approach is if there is a spate of sexting, including reporting any incidents to any adult.



Whiteboard