

Suspected Indecent Imagery Protocol

'Indecent' is not defined in legislation. For most purposes, if imagery (moving or still) contains a naked young person, a topless girl, and/or displays genitals or sex acts, including masturbation, then it will be considered indecent. Indecent images may also include overtly sexual images of young people in their underwear.

Confiscate it

Close it down

Report it

ALL STAFF

*If you have reason to believe, **without looking**, that there is a possibility that there are indecent images on a personal mobile device images you must*

Always...

- Confiscate and secure the device(s)
- Inform any DSL

Never...

- View the imagery (if viewed accidentally always report this)
- Send, share or save the image anywhere
- Allow students to do any of the above once you know about the imagery
- Delete the imagery unless directed to do so by the DSL

If the imagery has been shared across a **school network, a website or a social network:**

Always...

- Block the network to all users and isolate the imagery
- Inform the DSL

Never...

- Send or print the image
- Move the material from one place to another
- View the image outside of the protocols in your safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures.
- Delete the imagery unless directed to do so by the DSL

Additionally never...

- Search a mobile device even in response to an allegation or disclosure if this is likely to cause additional stress to the student/young person **UNLESS** there is clear evidence to suggest that there is an immediate problem
- Print out any material for evidence
- Move any material from one storage device to another

DSL ACTIONS

The DSL may need to seek clarification of a disclosure or allegation after they have been made aware of the concern, but should not conduct an investigation. Full notes will be kept in a learner safeguarding file. Seeking clarification may involve:

- Identifying, without looking, what the image contains and whether anyone else has been involved.
- Finding out who has seen or shared the image and how further distribution can be prevented.

The DSL **must immediately** refer to police and/or children's social care if:

- The incident involves an adult
- There is reason to believe that a young person has been coerced, blackmailed or groomed, or if there are concerns about their capacity to consent (for example, owing to special educational needs)
- What you know about the imagery suggests the content depicts sexual acts which are unusual for the young person's developmental stage, or are violent
- The imagery involves sexual acts and any pupil in the imagery is under 13
- You have reason to believe a young person is at immediate risk of harm owing to the sharing of the imagery, for example, the young person is presenting as suicidal or self-harming

Schools should make clear in their behaviour policies expectations in respect of holding and use of electronic devices.

Reference documents:

'Keeping children safe in education - Statutory guidance for schools and colleges

Part one: Information for all school and college staff' September 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/828587/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_part_one.pdf

'Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people'.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759007/6_2_939_SP_NCA_Sexting_In_Schools_FINAL_Update_Jan17.pdf

'Sexting: how to respond to an incident - An overview for all teaching and non-teaching staff in schools and colleges'

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/647389/Overview_of_Sexting_Guidance.pdf

'Searching, screening and confiscation - Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies', January 2018, which includes statutory advice.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf

Section 15 sets out the statutory guidance for dealing with electronic devices.

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Endorsed by Harrow Safeguarding Children Board

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