



Safeguarding Newsletter

ADVICE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Welcome to the latest edition of our Parent Safeguarding Newsletter from the William Edwards Safeguarding Team. Where we aim to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on issues we feel may be of importance to you and your child. This month we are discussing 'Harmful Sexual Behaviours'.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is a term used to describe sexual actions that are outside what is safe for a young person's stage of development. It includes actions that can harm either the young person themselves, or another person.

Around one-third of child sexual abuse is thought to be carried out by under-18s, and not all HSB happens face to face, it is thought to be more common online for young people.

Sexting

Sexting has become an increasingly common activity among children and young people, often considered by them as 'normal' harmless fun or flirting; what they fail to see, understand or are unaware of, is the risks and potential consequences that come with doing this.

What is the Law? Young people need to be aware that taking, possessing, sharing, showing and distributing indecent images of a child U18 is an offence and offences against a child U18 can be committed by a child.

Young people don't always recognise the possible effects that posting or sharing their images online can bring; commonly, people can get nasty and cause them additional distress, examples are: **Blackmail (extortion)**: An offender may threaten to share the pictures with the child's family and friends unless the child sends more images, videos, money or images of others. **Bullying**: Images are sent to, or seen by internet peers or friends at school; this leads to them being bullied. **Unwanted attention**: Images posted online can attract the attention of sex offenders; they know how to engage young people, search for, collect and modify images. **Emotional distress**: Children and young people can be left feeling embarrassed and humiliated.

Talking to your child about sex & relationships

Having these conversations with children can be very difficult and may bring about different emotions, so we have provided some resources to support.

[NSPCC](#)

[Brook](#)

NSPCC

CSE: [Click here for advice and support](#)

Sexting: [Click here for advice and support](#)

Call 0808 800 5000 – help for adults concerned about a child

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk

CEOP - ThinkuKnow - www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Nude Selfies: **Understanding Why** - A video from a parents perspective

Nude Selfies: **Talking to your child** - How to start a conversation about sex and relationships

Nude Selfies: **When should I be worried?** - This film will help you understand the different contexts in which images can be shared and how to respond.

Nude Selfies: **Where to get help** - Find out about organisations which can help you and your child

TOP TIPS

- 1 Explore your own attitudes and values
- 2 Start early
- 3 Learn and use resources to help you
- 4 Create openness and approachability
- 5 Answer questions
- 6 No big deal- little and often
- 7 Build respect for self and others
- 8 Be aware and be involved