Step by Step guidance on dealing with sexting to mitigate consequences and protect students

Resource Sheet

Discussion 1 – Sexting in my school setting

Is it common? -

How is it dealt with? -

Attitude of young people towards sexting in my school –

Parental responses to sexting? (if known) –

Discussion 2 - Assessing safeguarding in your school

Are you confident that all staff in your school are reporting sexting as a safeguarding issue to the DSL/Deputy?

How do you know and how could you strengthen current procedures?

Dealing with an individual sexting incident – The Role of DSL/Deputy DSL, a step by step guide

- If dealing with a sexting incident regarded as Point 1, these are recommended guidelines for safeguarding leads:

- Speak with the child/ren concerned asap, ideally where possible done by a member of the same sex.

- Why was the imagery shared? Was the young person coerced or put under pressure to produce the imagery?

- Who has shared the imagery? Where has the imagery been shared? Was it shared and received with the knowledge of the pupil in the imagery?

- Are there any adults involved in the sharing of imagery?

- What is the impact on the pupils involved?

- Do the pupils involved have additional vulnerabilities?

- Does the young person understand consent?

- Has the young person taken part in this kind of activity before?

- Has the imagery been shared on social media or anywhere else online? If so, what steps have been taken to contain the spread of the imagery?

- Involve parents/guardians asap, at the end of the day they play the most important role in educating and safeguarding their child.

- Be honest with parents and be prepared for a variety of emotional reactions when you inform them.

- Judge the parents/guardians response. Are you happy they will be taking appropriate action to prevent future incidents?

- No reason not to inform key pastoral staff, in fact they need to know in case the situation escalates.

- Damage limitation of the situation.

<u>Actions from Today for me as a professional</u>

Thinking about my own school setting:

- Areas of strength around sexting that are in place.

- Areas for development and improvement that I can influence in my role when I return to school.