



Northumbria Police

Safer Internet Day

Newsletter for parents and carers

February 2022

As **Tuesday 8th February** marks Safer Internet Day, we would like to take the opportunity to inform you of the work our Prevention Through Education Team has been doing in terms of online safety with secondary school students in our region, and hopefully the information included here will help you to keep your children safe online.

Sharing images and videos online

Young people often share images or 'selfies' and there is potential for some of those to be nude or nearly nude images. Young people share 'nudes' for a number of reasons, and some situations are more risky than others. For information about the contexts in which images are shared and how best to respond, take a look at [nude selfies: a parents guide](#).

Northumbria Police need young people to understand the risks involved in downloading or sharing indecent images of children. In April 2021, we launched a campaign to highlight the risks of sharing indecent images online by children and young people, and since then our officers Nichola and Sean have taught 4450 students in 45 schools on this topic. During our sessions, we learned:

- *Over half of students did **NOT** know it was illegal to post a 'nude' on the internet or to send one via messaging
- *The majority of students said there was **NO** safe way to send a 'nude'
- *Most students said they would **NOT** tell an adult at home if they received a 'nude' because they were embarrassed and were afraid that their parents/carers would take away their devices.

What does the law say?

It is against the law to download, make or share the images or videos if the person(s) in them are under **18 years** or the person receiving them is under **18 years**, even if it is you in them! Once these are sent you can never get them back and you risk potential criminal proceedings.

Please read on for how to start a conversation about this issue with your child, and for sources of support...

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

Have an ongoing conversation

Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, what they like and don't like, and any concerns about being online.

Agree ground rules about how you use technology as a family.

Learn about the platforms and apps young people like to use.

Know how to use the tools, apps and settings that can help to keep young people safe.

Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, read [having a conversation with your child](#).

Make sure they know where to go for support

Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they won't be in trouble at that you are there to help.

Visit [Thinkuknow](#) for further information. Online abuse can also be reported via this site.

It's good to remind children and young people that that [Childline](#) is also a valuable source of help and support.
