



DEALING WITH DISCLOSURES OF YOUTH SEXUAL IMAGERY POLICY

Luton Town Football Club

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Dealing with Disclosures of Youth Sexual Imagery Policy 2021-22

The law

Much of the complexity in responding to youth produced sexual imagery is due to its legal status. Making, possessing, and distributing any imagery of someone under 18 which is 'indecent' is illegal. This includes imagery of yourself if you are under 18.

The relevant legislation is contained in the Protection of Children Act 1978 (England and Wales) as amended in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (England and Wales).

Specifically:

- It is an offence to possess, distribute, show, and make indecent images of children
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 (England and Wales) defines a child, for the purposes of indecent images, as anyone under the age of 18.

'Indecent' is not defined in legislation. When cases are prosecuted, the question of whether any photograph of a child is indecent is for a jury, magistrate or District Judge to decide based on what is the recognised standard of propriety. For most purposes, if imagery 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.

What is 'sexting'?

In the latest advice for schools and colleges (UKCCIS, 2016), sexting is defined as the production and/or sharing of sexual photos and videos of and by young people who are under the age of 18. It includes nude or nearly nude images and/or sexual acts. It is also referred to as 'youth produced sexual imagery'.

'Sexting' does not include the sharing of sexual photos and videos of under 18-year-olds with or by adults. This is a form of child sexual abuse and must be referred to the police.

What to do if an incident involving 'sexting' comes to your attention

Report it to your Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) immediately.

- **Never** view, download, or share the imagery yourself, or ask a child to share or download – this is illegal.
- If you have already viewed the imagery by accident (e.g. if a young person has showed it to you before you could ask them not to), report this to the DSO.
- **Do not** delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it.
- **Do not** ask the young person(s) who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSO.
- **Do not** share information about the incident to other members of staff, the young person(s) it involves or their, or other, parents and/or carers.

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- **Do not** say or do anything to blame or shame any young people involved.
- **Do** explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSO.

If a 'sexting' incident comes to your attention, report it to your DSO. The Club's safeguarding policies outline codes of practice to be followed.

For further information

Download the full guidance [Sexting in Schools and Colleges: Responding to Incidents and Safeguarding Young People](http://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis) (UKCCIS, 2016) at www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis.

Date of next Review: July 2022