



YSGOL GYMRAEG YSTALYFERA-BRO DUR

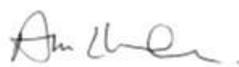
Sexting Policy

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Designated Child Protection Officer Bro Dur:	Miss Sioned Jones
Deputy Designated Child Protection Officers Ystalyfera:	Mrs Rhiannon Hammond/ Mrs Angharad Lloyd
Deputy Designated Child Protection Officer Bro Dur:	Miss Kath Jones
Designated Child Protection Governor:	Mrs Carys Jones

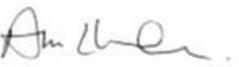
Adopted by Governing Body 2018

Signed (Chair of Governors):  January 2018

Reviewed by Governing Body:

Signed (Chair of Governors):  January 2019

Signed (Chair of Governors):  January 2020

Signed (Chair of Governors):  January 2021

Signed (Chair of Governors): January 2022

Sexting Policy

January 2018

Review Date January 2019

'Sexting' is an increasingly common activity among young people where they share inappropriate or explicit images online or through mobile phones. Regrettably, there is a national concern related to young people (under the age of 18 years of age) engaging in sending/sharing inappropriate/indecent photographs of themselves or of other children via texts, SnapChat messages, Facebook, Instagram etc.

Definition

- The definition of sexting is 'images or videos generated by children under the age of 18 that are of a sexual nature or are considered to be indecent. These images may be shared between children and young people and/or adults via a mobile phone, webcam, handheld device or website'.

The Law

- The sharing of sexual videos and pictures of children under the age of 18, even if the child/young person shares an image of themselves, is a criminal offence - Specifically, crimes involving indecent photographs of a person under 18 years of age fall under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 Criminal Justice Act 1988.
- Under this legislation it is a crime to take an indecent photograph or allow an indecent photograph to be taken; make an indecent photograph (this includes downloading or opening an image that has been sent via email/text/SnapChat etc.); distribute or show such an image; possess with the intention of distributing images; advertise and possess such images.

Young people may also call it:

Cybersex

Sending a nudie, picture or selfie

Trading nudes

Dirtyies

Pic for pic.

'Sexting' is often seen as flirting by children and young people who feel that it's a part of normal life

Dealing with sexting incidents at Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera

For Staff

When an incident involving youth produced sexual imagery comes to a school's attention:

- The incident should be referred to the DSL as soon as possible

Designated Safeguarding Team

In applying judgement to each sexting incident consider the following:

- Sexting among children and young people can be a common occurrence; where they often describe these incidents as 'mundane'.
- Children, involved in sexting incidents, will be dealt with (by the police) as victims as opposed to perpetrators (unless there are mitigating circumstances).
- Record all incidents of sexting. This includes both the actions you did take together with the actions that you didn't take, together with justifications.
- Significant age difference between the sender/receiver involved.
- If there is any external coercion involved or encouragement beyond the sender/receiver.
- If you recognise the child as more vulnerable than is usual (ie at risk).
- If the image is of a severe or extreme nature.
- If the situation is not isolated and the image has been more widely distributed.
- If this is not the first time children have been involved in a sexting act.
- If other knowledge of either the sender/recipient may add cause for concern (ie difficult home circumstances).

Initial response

- The DSL should hold an initial review meeting with appropriate staff
- There should be subsequent interviews with the young people involved (if appropriate)
- Parents should be informed at an early stage and involved in the process unless there is good reason to believe that involving parents would put the young person at risk of harm
- At any point in the process if there is a concern a young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm a referral should be made to children's services and/or the police immediately

An immediate referral to police and/or children's services should be made if at this initial stage:

- 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 student in the imagery is under 13
- You have reason to believe a student 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
- If none of the above apply then a school may decide to respond to the incident without involving the police or children's services (a school can choose to escalate the incident at any time if further information/concerns come to light).

DSLs should always use their professional judgement in conjunction with their colleagues to assess incidents.

To be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding /CP Policy, Anti bullying policy and behaviour policy

DSL= designated safeguarding lead – Laurel Davies

Appendix

When deciding whether to involve the police and/or children's social care, consideration should be given to the following questions. Answering these questions will support the DSL in considering whether a young person is at risk of harm, in which case a referral will be appropriate, whether additional information or support is needed from other agencies or whether the academy can manage the incident and support the young people directly.

Do you have any concerns about the young person's vulnerability?

Has the imagery been shared beyond its intended recipient? Was it shared without the consent of the young person who produced the imagery?

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?

How old is the young person or young people involved?

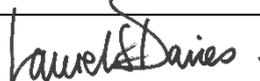
Did the young person send the image to more than one person?

Does the young person understand the possible implications of sharing the image?

Are there additional concerns if the parents or carers are informed?

If a young person highlights concerns about involvement of their parents then the DSL should use their professional judgement about whether it is appropriate to involve them and at what stage. If a school chooses not to involve a parent they must clearly record the reasons for not doing so.

Where possible young people should be supported to speak with their parents themselves about the concerns. As a result of this national concern, schools have received advice regarding this safeguarding matter, this information has been shared in an age appropriate manner with students via assemblies

	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Mr Alun Llewelyn		January 2021
Head Teacher	Mrs Laurel Davies		January 2021

Review Date

January	2022
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