

International



English Schools UK  
Breckland

# *e-safety*

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# *Teenage girl given police caution for 'sexting' explicit selfie to boyfriend*

Police warn youngsters as young as 10 could end up on the sex offenders register for "sexting" nude pictures of themselves if they are under 18

# Why is this a criminal offence?

- Police were called in because she was under the age of 18 and therefore both were committing an offence of distributing an indecent image of a child.
- Both received a caution but police are now warning other teenagers they could end up on the sex offenders register if they send explicit pictures of themselves via text messages or social media.

# What is 'sexting'

- Sexting means people sharing indecent images via a mobile phone or uploading them on a social networking site.
- The administrators of these sites refer matters to police if an image shows someone under 18 because an offence may have been committed.

# What is a police caution?

- A way of addressing an offence without going to court- will depend on the severity of the crime.
- Youth cautions last 2 years but lay on file and will show up in criminal record checks carried out by your employer.

# Consequences of sexting

## 1) You could end up with a police caution

- Sending a naked image of yourself via text message, or social media, when you're below the age of 18 is technically illegal. It counts as an offence of distributing an indecent image of a child and is something you could receive a police caution for. You could even end up on the sex offenders register.

# Consequences of sexting

## 2) It's worse to send a photo of a sexual act

- Even though the age of sexual consent is 16, the age for distributing indecent images is 18. That means that a 17-year-old who can legally have sex cannot legally send a naked image.
- If a 17-year-old sent a sext showing them having sex, they'd still be committing an offence by sending a naked image - but it wouldn't break the law around consent. A 15-year-old doing the same would be committing two offences.

# Consequences of sexting

## 3) An unwanted sext could be seen as a crime

- Most people generally send sexts and naked selfies with the certain knowledge that the recipient wants to see it – or at the very least will not be offended.
- But if you do send a naked selfie to someone who is likely to be upset by it, that could be a crime under the Malicious Communications Act.
- “It’s an offence to send grossly offensive communications to someone else. It’s conceivable that [a naked sext] could offend. If you send someone a picture of a penis, that might be taken offensively.”

# In summary

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/sexting/>