

Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: how to respond to an incident

An overview for all staff working in education settings in Wales

This document provides a brief overview for frontline staff on how to respond to incidents where nudes and semi-nudes have been shared.

All such incidents should be reported to the designated safeguarding person (DSP) or equivalent and managed in line with your setting's child protection policies.

The DSP (or equivalent) should be familiar with the full guidance for education settings ***Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: Responding to incidents and safeguarding children and young people (2020)***. This Welsh Government guidance has been developed with the UK Council for Internet Safety's Education Working Group; DSPs should **not** refer to this document instead of the full guidance.

What do we mean by sharing nudes and semi-nudes?

In the latest advice for education settings, sharing nudes and semi-nudes is defined as the creating and/or sharing of nude or semi-nude images, videos or live streams by young people under the age of 18. This could be via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps or forums. It could also involve sharing between devices via services like Apple's AirDrop, which works offline. Alternative terms used by children and young people may include 'dick pics' or 'pics'.

This advice does not apply to 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 comes to your attention

Report it to your DSP or equivalent immediately. Your setting's child protection policy should outline codes of practice to be followed.

- **Never** view, copy, print, share, store or save 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 DSP (or equivalent).
- **Do not** delete the imagery or ask the young person to delete it.
- **Do not** ask the child/children or young person/people who are involved in the incident to disclose information regarding the imagery. This is the responsibility of the DSP (or equivalent).

- **Do not** share information about the incident with other members of staff, the young person/people it involves or their, or other, parents/carers.
- **Do not** say or do anything to blame or shame any young person/people involved.
- **Do** explain to them that you need to report it and reassure them that they will receive support and help from the DSP (or equivalent).

For further information

Download the full guidance for education settings, ***Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: Responding to incidents and safeguarding children and young people*** at hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/welsh-government-guidance/.