

Rationale:

The use of mobile hand-held devices and other electronic tools to communicate by text message (texting) and to share electronic photographs and videos has become a very common and everyday occurrence in most people's lives - particularly young people.

Definition

Sexting is understood to mean sending or receiving nude, sexual or indecent photos using a computer, mobile phone, or other electronic device.

When is sexting a criminal offence?

"Sexting" may amount to a criminal offence in the following circumstances:

- When a child intentionally distributes an intimate image of another person contrary to community standards of acceptable conduct.
- When a child threatens to send an intimate image of a person to others if the person threatened believes that the child will carry out the threat

Aim:

- To ensure students and families are aware of the consequences and actions that may occur should students choose to participate in sexting.

Implementation:

- Sexting involving images, videos or text of a person under the age of 18 years is illegal.
- Images, videos or text of a person under the age of 18 years are child pornography.
- Serious long term social and emotional consequences may occur as a result of an individual having images, videos or text of them in circulation.
- Once circulated, it is virtually impossible to retrieve or permanently delete images, videos or text.
- All students at our college will be made aware of the potentially legal and social consequences of sexting.
- Families will be provided with information regarding sexting, the potential legal and social consequences of sexting, advice regarding sexting discussions with their children, support and information services, and possible courses of action.
- All staff will be provided with information regarding sexting, how to discuss sexting with students, and how to respond to alleged incidents of sexting.
- As sexting images, videos or text of a person under the age of 18 years is an illegal activity, such incidents must be reported by the college to the police and the Department of Education for action.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.