

ALL HALLOWS RC HIGH SCHOOL



Youth Produced Sexual Imagery POLICY

Committee responsible for review: Welfare Committee

Review Date: January 2024

Date of next review: January 2026

We aim for All Hallows RC High School to be a Catholic school to which children wish to come, to which parents wish to send their children, and where teachers wish to teach.

Our Mission is to offer a high quality Catholic education for all, in an environment where Gospel Values are central to teaching and learning, and in which the unique value of each person is recognised and respected.

YOUTH PRODUCED SEXUAL IMAGERY POLICY

Youth produced sexual imagery forms part of the Safeguarding Policy but there are references to this in the Behaviour and online-safeguarding policy.

Definition: the term 'sexting' is a derivation of 'texting' but relates to the sending of indecent images, videos and/or written messages with sexually explicit content. It is officially known as 'Youth Produced Sexual Imagery'. These are created and sent via electronic communication devices such as mobile telephones, tablets, laptops and desktop computers. They are often 'shared' via social networking sites and instant messaging services. 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, and anyone under the age of 18.

Aim: All Hallows RC High School will not tolerate Youth Produced Sexual Imagery, it is inappropriate and illegal amongst young people and can have extremely damaging and long-lasting consequences. This policy has been created in order to provide a guide for both staff and pupils as to how the school will proceed and what steps will be taken should an incident of Youth Produced Sexual Imagery be reported or suspected.

Legal Implications for pupils

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery potentially breaches several civil laws concerned with the creation, possession and distribution of child pornography and indecent images. These are images which show partial (where breasts or genitals are exposed) or full nudity and/or feature sexual acts being performed. It is illegal for pupils to make and/or share images such as these, even if they are images of themselves, which have been taken personally or with consent. Pupils who engage in Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (to any extent) are at risk of receiving a police caution and/or being placed on a register for sexual offenders for a period of several years (which can have serious ramifications in adulthood with regards to employment, travel etc). Youth Produced Sexual Imagery can also (in some cases) be viewed as a crime under the Malicious Communications Act.

Upskirting is a form of youth produced sexual imagery. It's a criminal offence and is referenced in **KCSIE 2023**. Upskirting is typically when a photograph is taken under a person's clothing without them knowing, for sexual gratification or to cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm.

School policies

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery is therefore identified as unacceptable behaviour in the school Behaviour Policy and the possession of pornography is prohibited in school. The misuse of IT, such as sexting, inappropriate comments on social networking,

being the object of cyber-bullying and online grooming are all potential welfare concerns and identified as such in our Safeguarding Policy.

Our duty

As staff, we have a responsibility to work with parents and carers in ensuring that all pupils are fully aware of the dangers and possible repercussions of Youth Produced Sexual Imagery. In school, this information will be communicated to pupils during RSE lessons, tutor time, in assemblies and through parental information.

Youth produced sexual imagery incidents are often complicated as they potentially involve a large number of pupils and those involved could be victims or perpetrators or both. Depending on the specific circumstances and gravity, the incident will be investigated on the discipline-safeguarding continuum:

If an incident of sexting is reported or suspected at All Hallows RC High School:

- If “sexting” is reported by the victim or deemed to be a Child Protection matter, then it must be treated as a disclosure of a Child Protection matter and referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will report the incident to the BRIDGE and the police.
- If deemed to be a disciplinary issue or a potential crime, it must be reported to the relevant PPL or member of SLT.
- Parents and carers will be notified and the incident will be reported to the BRIDGE team or the police, as appropriate.
- Pupils will be sanctioned in accordance with our Behaviour Policy. Youth produced sexual imagery is a serious offence and dependent on motive, intent, pressure or coercion, those involved may be issued with severe sanctions. Pupils may also be required to attend workshops to ensure that they understand legality, consequences and to work through specific scenarios.
- Pupils may also be subject to interview by the Police and confiscation of their electronic devices.

Guidance for staff if you suspect that an offence has been committed:

- If you suspect that “sexting” has taken place or you become aware of indecent images circulating in school or a pupil refers an incident of “sexting” to you, then you must refer it straight away to the relevant PPL or the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who are authorised by the Headteacher to investigate such matters.
- Although all staff are by law permitted to search pupils without their consent if they have a reasonable suspicion that they may have prohibited items in their possession, such as pornography, you may put yourself at risk of allegations by attempting to deal with this issue or by viewing indecent images yourself, so this is an investigation that should be carried out by SLT or Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- **DO NOT** search, copy, print images that do come to your attention. Switch off or put in flight mode so the phone cannot be remotely wiped, secure the phone and seek advice. Staff do not want to inadvertently implicate themselves simply by viewing such material.

- If you are in any doubt whatsoever, seek immediate advice from the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Done) who may refer the issue on.