

RSE ASSEMBLY

Parent Guidance

BACKGROUND

On 25th March 2024, the [Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Act 2021 \(SOOP\)](#) came into effect on the island., which is a wide ranging modernisation of statute law. It was considered that developments in technology, social attitudes, and priorities were such that a complete overhaul of sexual offences and obscene publication legislation was required.

This guide has been created to provide parents and carers with key information that may help to aid your understanding of the new legislation, and to support discussions with your child. Please note that this legislation covers a wide range of sexual offences, not all of which are included in this guide. This guidance refers specifically to legislation relating to 'sexting,' including the recording, possessing, and distributing of indecent and prohibited images.

KEY TERMS

Sexting – a combination of ‘sex’ and ‘texting’ which refers to the act of sending sexual messages.

Pseudo photograph – an image made by computer-graphics or otherwise which appears to be a photograph.

Voyeurism - when a person observes someone in a private act, or operates any equipment for the purpose of observing someone that does not consent to being observed.

Up-skirting - when a person intentionally records an intimate image of another person or operates/ adapts any sort of equipment/ structure for the purpose of recording intimate images, without the consent of the person.

Revenge porn - when a person intentionally distributes an intimate image of a person, or threatens to record or distribute an intimate image (with the intent of the threat being believed) without the consent of the person.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

How do you know if somebody is giving consent? How might they communicate consent verbally and non-verbally?

How can we empower ourselves and others to assert their boundaries?

How do you think someone might feel if they're being asked to send these kinds of images of themselves?

What are the risks? Why might some young people do it anyway?

What are some ways we can support our friends if they're being asked to send explicit images of themselves?

Where can you go for help if you're being asked to share explicit images of yourself, or if you have already done so?

Consent is defined in law as agreement by choice made by someone with the freedom and capacity to consent.

Capacity – is the person old enough to consent? Are they impaired by drugs or alcohol? Are they able to understand what is happening and what they're consenting to?

Freedom – Did they make the choice freely, without manipulation, exploitation, pressure, duress?

If consent is not clear, informed, willing, and active, it must be assumed that consent has **not** been given.

RESOURCES

- [NSPCC - Sexting & Sharing Nudes](#)
- [Report Harmful Content](#)
- [Childline - Report Remove](#)
- [Childnet - Have a Conversation](#)
- [CEOP - Report Online Sexual Abuse](#)