



<b>SECTION</b>	<b>Safeguarding</b>
<b>POLICY /PROCEDURE</b>	<b>Inappropriate &amp; Sexual Imagery (U18)</b>
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Club Doncaster are proud of their engagement with children & young people across the entire organisation. We provide a varied timetable of activities across all parts of the company, and it is important that we recognise the shifts and trends in behaviour and culture and the issues affecting young people.

'Sexting' is an increasingly common activity among young people where they share inappropriate or explicit images online or through social media /mobile portable devices. Regrettably, there is a national concern related to young people (under the age of 18 years of age) engaging in sending/sharing inappropriate/indecent photographs of themselves or of other children via texts, Snap Chat messages, Facebook, Instagram etc.

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the Club Doncaster Safeguarding policy, and current government and local authority legislation, which can be found at the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/647389/Overview\\_of\\_Sexting\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/647389/Overview_of_Sexting_Guidance.pdf)

The definition of sexting is 'images or videos generated by children under the age of 18 that are of a sexual nature or are considered to be indecent. These images may be shared between children and young people and/or adults via a mobile phone, webcam, handheld device or website'.

The sharing of sexual videos and pictures of children under the age of 18, even if the child/young person shares an image of themselves, is a criminal offence - Specifically, crimes involving indecent photographs of a person under 18 years of age fall under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 Criminal Justice Act 1988.

Under this legislation, it is a crime to:

- Take an indecent photograph or allow an indecent photograph to be taken
- Make an indecent photograph (this includes downloading or opening an image that has been sent via email/text/Snap Chat etc.)
- Distribute or show such an image; possess with the intention of distributing images; advertise and possess such images.

When working with young people the act may also be referred to as; Cybersex, sending a nudie, x selfie, trading, dirties, pic for pic. 'Sexting' is often seen as flirting by children and young people who feel that it is a part of normal life.

### Dealing with sexting incidents at Club Doncaster

When an incident involving a person aged under the age of 18 comes to the attention of any person working within Club Doncaster, the incident should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding lead for the area of Club Doncaster (please see safeguarding organisation chart) immediately, even if this issue is out of hours.

The person should ensure that they have made a written record of the incident, at minimum via email, including the person's name and their age. Please do not record or save the image under any circumstances. Please try to record as many facts if they have been disclosed to you, but do not ask any questions in respect of the incident as they may interfere with later investigations.

The strategic lead for safeguarding upon receiving information from designated welfare / safeguarding leads are bound by law to refer the matter within 24 hours to the Local Authority Designated Officer and Police.

The strategic lead for safeguarding will also inform the parent / legal guardian of the child, unless there is deemed to be a justifiable reason where the child may be at risk of harm, if this action were to occur.

In conjunction with the Local Authority Designated Officer, the strategic lead for safeguarding, reserves the right to use justifiable and professional judgement in respect of any further internal actions, Club Doncaster may impose on a young person following an incident.