

Safeguarding Bulletin



Safer
Internet
Day 2016

Tuesday
9 February

Play your part for
a better internet

www.saferinternetday.org.uk



What is sexting?

The NSPCC website provides the following guidance:

'Sexting' is the exchange of self-generated sexually explicit images, through mobile picture messages or webcams over the internet.

Also referred to as:

- Cybersex
- Sending a nудie, picture or selfie

'Sexting' is often seen as flirting and some may think that it's a part of normal life.

'Sexting' is more common than you may think, and has been found to be commonplace amongst children and young people.

There were over 1,200 ChildLine counselling sessions that mentioned 'sexting' in 2014/15. ([NSPCC, 2015](#))

Most young people do not see 'sexting' as a problem and are reluctant to talk to adults about it because they are afraid of being judged or having their phones taken away.

The Safeguarding team based in POD at Balliol are here to help. If you have been asked to send photos or have already sent them and are worried about this then come and speak to us. We will offer you advice,

If you don't feel able to come and speak to us in person you can anonymously refer concern through the Student Zone online. Just look out for this icon on the homepage:



Once you click here you can request to send a confidential report to a Safeguarding Officer by pressing this button:



Catfishing

You may be thinking.... 'What is the big deal?', 'Why does everyone keep telling me to set my privacy settings high on Facebook?' There are many reasons why using the internet and social media safely and appropriately are important but a new emerging internet phenomenon called catfishing is a current concern. Catfishing is pretending to be someone you're not online by posting false information, such as someone else's pictures, on social media sites, usually with the intention of getting someone to fall in love with you. There are many different concerns relating to catfishing, you may be the target and be chatting to someone who isn't the person you think they are. Or you may be the person whose identify the catfisher steals, your photos may be used to create the profiles catfishers use to create false identities.

So remember:

- Stay safe online, set your privacy settings as high as possible.
- Don't post anything online that you wouldn't want others to see. Remember what you post could impact on your future career.
- Remember College computers are monitored, don't access sites that could be inappropriate.
- Don't accept strangers as friends or communicate with strangers on social media.