

## Sexting

Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually-explicit messages. They can be sent using mobiles, tablets, smartphones, laptops etc – any device that allows you to share media and messages.

Sexting may also be called ‘trading nudes’, ‘dirties’ or ‘pic for pic’. The creating or sharing of explicit images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child.

**TOP TIP** : CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) Command enables anyone worried about online sexual abuse or the way that someone has been communicating with them online to make a report to one of CEOP’s Child Protection Advisors

## Upskirting

More information on up-skirting can be found in [Up-skirting: know your rights](#) and up-skirting’ [law comes into force](#) published by the Ministry of Justice.

Finally, [Keeping children safe in education](#) has information on up skirting: It says: “*All staff should be clear as to the school or college’s policy and procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse*” and it lists up skirting in the list of peer on peer abuse types.

## The Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019

The Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019 creates 2 new offences criminalising **someone who operates equipment or records an image under another person’s clothing** (without that person’s consent or a reasonable belief in their consent) **with the intention of viewing, or enabling another person to view, their genitals or buttocks** (with or without underwear), where the purpose is **to obtain sexual gratification or to cause humiliation, distress or alarm.**

An attempt to take an up-skirting photo will be taken seriously under The Criminal Attempts Act 1981. Anyone who even tries to take a photo, but doesn’t end up with one (e.g. maybe their phone did not have space for an image, but they clicked the button, or maybe their camera was glitching in that moment) will be charged with attempt to commit an act of up skirting.

The offenders could be entered into the UK Sexual Offender’s Register, if their up-skirting attempt is enacted to “obtain sexual gratification”. However, if the up-skirting image is taken to cause humiliation or distress, they will not be a Sex Offender.

The individual who has reported the up-skirting photo will be subject to lifetime protection in the form of reporting restrictions – the media cannot circulate their names, identities or any significant details that would reveal who they are