

*Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer*

The Basingstoke Policing Team have been made aware of recent "Snapchat" and other social media groups that have emerged involving young people sending indecent images of themselves or others and other materials designed to cause embarrassment to people. This may include victims of pranks, bullying and nude images.

Many of these are being "screenshotted" or saved by the recipients and sometimes forwarded on to others.

The Basingstoke Neighbourhood Policing Team would like to make you and your children aware that having an indecent image of someone under the age of 18 on your device, sharing any such image or making any such image, is an offence under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978.

Should any person be convicted of this they would hold a criminal record for "possessing/taking/distributing indecent images of children". They may be required to sign the Sex Offenders Register as a result of this and this can have an impact on their employment opportunities in the future.

Please discuss this sensitively with your children and make them aware of the potential offences they could be committing just by being part of these groups. If they are part of any such group they should remove themselves from it and delete any images they may have received or stored.

Your child may wish to discuss their own experience of being victimised by these groups and there are some useful resources below for both you and your child to assist with this.

1. <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/sexting/>
2. <http://swgfl.org.uk/products-services/esafety/revenge-porn-helpline>
3. Particularly in relation to concerned parents: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety> or <http://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/>
4. Report indecent images for investigation and removal from the internet, including anonymously: <https://www.iwf.org.uk/report>

*Kind regards*

*Basingstoke Neighbourhood Policing Team*