

## **Appendix A**

### ***Procedures for Responding to Specific Online Incidents or Concerns***

The following content is provided to enable schools and education settings to make appropriate safeguarding decisions reading online safety concerns and has been written by the Kent e-Safety Strategy Group with input from specialist services and teams. This content is not exhaustive and cannot cover every eventually so professional judgement and support from appropriate agencies such as the Education Safeguarding Team, Police, CSET and Children’s Social Care is encouraged.

Some settings may not feel that these sections are relevant due to the age and ability of children; however it is recommended that designated safeguarding leads ensure that their settings safeguarding policies and procedures are robust and are applicable for a range of safeguarding issues should they occur.

Some schools and settings will wish to place these sections within existing safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures rather than the online safety policy or within other appropriate policies and procedures. Other settings will prefer to keep this content as reference material for Designated Safeguarding Leads.

#### ***A.1 Responding to concerns regarding Self-Generated Indecent Images of Children (SGIIOC or “Sexting”)***

##### ***Discussion:***

Self-Generated Indecent Images of Children (SGIIOC or “Sexting”) can be defined as 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.

Children and young people will always look to push the boundaries, especially when they go through puberty and are an age where they are more sexually and socially aware. Children typically do not use the term “sexting”, usually referring to the images as “selfies” and may decide to send such pictures or videos for many reasons. For younger children (early years and primary school aged) indecent images or videos may be taken or shared out of curiosity or naivety and for older children, indecent images may be taken or shared as a response to peer pressure, cyberbullying, sexual exploration, impulsive behaviour, “flirting” or even exploitation due to blackmail from a friend, partner, or other on or offline contact. Often children and young people and indeed adults are unaware of the social, psychological and even criminal consequences of sharing such images and videos.

It is important to be aware that young people involved in sharing sexual videos and pictures may be committing a criminal offence. Specifically, crimes involving indecent photographs (including pseudo images) 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); distribute or show an indecent image, advertise indecent images and possess an indecent image or possess an indecent image with the intention of distribution. This applies even if the images are sent or shared by someone under the age of 18 with “consent”. “Sexts” may be viewed as police evidence and it is essential than schools secure devices and seek advice immediately when dealing with concerns.

The current Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) position is that:

*'ACPO does not support the prosecution or criminalisation of children for taking indecent images of themselves and sharing them. Being prosecuted through the criminal justice system is likely to be upsetting and distressing for children especially if they are convicted and punished. The label of sex offender that would be applied to a child or young person convicted of such offences is regrettable, unjust and clearly detrimental to their future health and wellbeing.'*

[www.ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/externaldocs/ACPO\\_Lead\\_position\\_on\\_Self\\_Taken\\_Images.pdf](http://www.ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/externaldocs/ACPO_Lead_position_on_Self_Taken_Images.pdf)

It should be noted that prosecution of children for sharing indecent images for a first offence is rare. The decision to criminalise children and young people for sending these kinds of images will need to be considered and made on a case by case basis, however where possible the intention should not be to criminalise children. Wider vulnerability considerations for all of those involved should always be made and education and safeguarding approaches must always be implemented.

There can also be huge emotional and reputation damage that can come from having intimate photos forwarded to others or shared online. These consequences can include isolation, bullying, low self-esteem, loss of control, creating of a negative "digital footprint" or online reputation, harassment, mental health difficulties, self-harm, suicide and increased risk of child sexual exploitation. Schools and settings will also want to take as many preventative measures as they can to educate young people about the risks and to support them in maintaining a healthy digital footprint.

It is essential that schools and settings handle 'sexting' incidents as carefully as possible and offer support to all parties involved whilst abiding by the law and also do not compromise police investigations. Schools and education settings should access and consider the guidance as set out in "'Sexting' in schools: advice and support around self-generated images. What to do and how to handle it" which can be downloaded from the Kelsi website: <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding/e-safety>

The following statements may enable schools and settings to consider how best to respond to concerns relating to 'sexting':

- What is the age of the child(ren) involved?
  - If under 13 then a consultation/referral to Children's Social Care should be made.
  - If an adult (over 18) is involved then consider using the KSCB CSE toolkit.
- Is there any contextual information to help inform decision making?
  - E.g. are the children involved in a relationship and if so is the relationship appropriate?
  - Is this age appropriate experimentation, natural curiosity or possible exploitation?
- Is the school or other agencies (e.g. Police or social care) aware of any vulnerability for the children(s) involved?
  - E.g. special education needs, emotional needs, children in care, youth offending?
- Are there any other risks or concerns known by the school or other agencies which may influence decisions or judgements about the safety and wellbeing of the child(ren) involved?
  - E.g. family situation, children at risk of sexual exploitation?
  - Has the child(ren) involved been considered under KSCB 2.2.2 "children who display harmful behaviours" procedure?
  - Has the child(ren) involved been considered using the KSCB CSE toolkit?
- How were the school made aware of the image?

- E.g. did a child disclose about receiving, sending or sharing an image themselves or was the concern raised by another pupil or member of the school community?
- What sort of image is it?
  - Is the image potentially illegal or is it inappropriate?
- Does the child(ren) know who has accessed the image?
  - E.g. was it sent to a known peer (e.g. boyfriend or girlfriend) or an unknown adult?
  - Do they know where the image has been shared?
  - Has it been shared online or sent to another child/person?
- How widely has the image been shared?
  - E.g. just to one other child or to an unknown number of children/adults?
- Are there other children/pupils involved?
  - If so, who are they and are there any safeguarding concerns?
  - What are their views/perceptions on the issue?
- What apps, services or devices are involved (if appropriate)?
  - Some apps and devices may automatically store, backup or delete images which can influence evidence gathering.
- Is the image on a school device or a personal device?
  - Is the device secured?
    - Schools and settings must NOT print/copy etc. images suspected to be indecent – the device should be secured until advice can be obtained.
- Does the child need immediate support and or protection?
  - What is the impact on the child?
  - What can the school put in place to support them?
- Are other schools/settings involved?
  - Does the relevant Designated Safeguarding Lead need to be identified and contacted?
- Is this a first incident or has the child(ren) been involved in sexting concern before?
  - If so, what action was taken and does this possibly increase concerns for offending behaviour?
- Are the school child protection and safeguarding policies and practices being followed?
  - For example, is a member of the child protection team on hand and is their advice and support available?

## ***A.2 Responding to concerns regarding Online Child Sexual Abuse***

### ***Discussion:***

Online child sexual abuse within this policy context is specifically defined as when children are sexually abused or exploited via the use of technology and the internet. Typically this is referred to as “online grooming” however this term can sometimes be considered to be too narrow when considering online child sexual abuse as using the term “grooming” may imply that the behaviour has taken place over a period of time whilst an offender has built a relationship and gained the trust of their victim. Whilst this longer term process still occurs, current trends identified nationally (CEOP/NCA) and locally would suggest that the period of engagement between offender and victim can in many cases be extremely brief. In 2015, CEOP identified that the objectives of online child sexual abuse have evolved and can lead to a range of offending outcomes, such as deceiving children into producing indecent images of themselves or engaging in sexual chat or sexual activity over webcam. Online child sexual abuse can also result in offline offending such as meetings between an adult and a child for sexual purposes following online engagement.

OSCE can also be perpetrated by young people themselves and these issues should be viewed and responded to in line with the Kent Safeguarding Children Board procedure for children who display harmful behaviours (2.2.2).

Online child sexual abuse can also link in with Child Sexual Exploitation and DSLs should be aware of the KSCB CST toolkit and Operation Willow: <http://www.kscb.org.uk/guidance/sexual-abuse-and-exploitation>

Schools must be aware of and understand the law regarding the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Specifically (but not limited to):

- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 – Section 15. Meeting a child following sexual grooming.
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 – Section 8. Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 – Section 10. Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 – Section 12. Causing a child to watch a sexual act
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 – Section 13. Child sex offences (section 10, 11 and 12) but committed by children (offender is under 18).
- The Serious Crime Act 2015 - Part 5. Protection of Children - Section 67. Sending a child sexualised communications.

More information about these offences can be found within the legal framework section of the policy template.

Schools and settings may wish to highlight responses to online child sexual abuse within existing school policies and procedures rather than within the online safety policy.

### ***A.3 Responding to concerns regarding Indecent Images of Children (IIOC)***

#### ***Discussion:***

Schools and settings must be aware of and understand the law regarding indecent images of children. Specifically (but not limited to):

- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 (England and Wales) defines a child, for the purposes of indecent images, as anyone under the age of 18. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act, 1982 replicates this.
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 (England and Wales) provides a defence for handling potentially criminal images and this is supported by a Memorandum of Understanding which provides guidance on what is and is not acceptable.

It is an offence to possess, distribute, show and make indecent images of children. Making of and distributing indecent images of children includes printing and viewing them on the internet otherwise known as 'downloading'. More information about these offences can be found within the legal framework section.

Where there is cause for concern or fear that illegal activity has taken place or is taking place involving the use of school computer equipment, then schools should determine the level of response necessary for the offence disclosed. The decision to involve Police should be made as soon as possible if the offence is deemed to be out of the remit of the school to deal with. If schools are unsure if an issue is of a criminal nature then the Designated Safeguarding Lead should seek advice from the Education Safeguards Team or Kent Police.

Where it is determined that an offence has been committed and that a police investigation is warranted, all measures to preserve evidence should be undertaken. If an officer decides that equipment needs to be seized, then they will need to determine if the equipment is networked. If in doubt as to whether the server should be seized or not, officers should seek advice from the Police Digital Forensic Unit, as seizure of the server will have a significant impact on the school. It is essential that schools are aware of this possibility and they should ensure that measures are in place to enable the school's computer network to continue functioning should this situation arise.

In cases where a suspect picture or photograph is discovered it should also be borne in mind that a person could be guilty of the offence to 'Make' and 'Distribute' if they print or forward the image. There is a defence in law for police investigating crimes in these circumstances — in some cases, it may still be necessary for that person, or others (for example a person to whom an accidental find is reported), to knowingly "make" another copy of the photograph or pseudo-photograph in order that it will be reported to the authorities, and clearly it is desirable that they should be able to do so without fear of prosecution. This does not mean that schools should forward, save or print indecent images of children and as soon as schools are made aware that an image may be illegal, appropriate advice must be sought immediately. Schools should be aware that all copies (including digital or printed copies) of indecent images of children will be seized.

In all cases, a detailed statement may be obtained to assist those who investigate the offence. The following information should be included in the statement:

- The identity of any material witnesses
- The name of the Internet service provider (ISP) or mobile telephone service provider in the case of images received through a telephone
- If known, the web address, name of the app or website through which the image was found or received;
- Any passwords or other procedure required to gain access to the website
- If known, the identity of the person who sent the image
- Any details relating to those involved e.g. email address or screen names
- The reason for any delay in reporting the incident to the police (to assist investigators).

In the case of offences involving mobile phones or devices ("sexting"), the likelihood is that issues will in the main be resolved by the school. Should an incident arise which is deemed to be of a serious nature and necessitates criminal investigation it may require the seizure of the phone/device. Schools and settings should ensure the existing policies regarding seizing and searching are robust and up-to-date.

Schools and settings may wish to highlight responding to concerns regarding Indecent Images of children within existing policies and procedures rather than within the online safety policy.

#### ***A.4 Responding to concerns regarding radicalisation or extremism online***

##### ***Discussion:***

Schools and settings should be mindful of the specific responsibilities and requirements placed upon them under the Prevent Duty <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 specified authorities, including all schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("the CTSA 2015"), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The statutory Prevent guidance summarises the requirements on schools as undertaking risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies.

Schools are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology which includes a range of extremism views including the far right. Schools should have clear procedures in place for protecting children who are identified to be at risk of radicalisation. These procedures may be set out in existing safeguarding policies and it is not necessary for schools and colleges to have distinct policies on implementing the Prevent duty. The online safety policy will be an important part of this role as it will highlight the action that the school will take to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place

which takes into account the needs of the schools community. Schools should ensure that online safety education highlights the risks of extremist content online, especially regarding the use and power of social media as a tool in radicalisation.

When ensuring appropriate filtering is in place, schools should be mindful to act in accordance with the law, much like when ensuring the filtering blocks other forms of illegal content. It should also be noted that radicalisation and extremist views can be shared and accessed on variety of platforms, including user generated or social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube and schools should make filtering decisions with this in mind. The way in which the monitoring of internet and network use is managed will be down to individual schools to decide and implement so as to meet their specific needs and requirements, for example taking into account the curriculum and also the needs and abilities of the community e.g. pupils or staff with EAL. The school (Head and Governing Body) needs to be able to satisfy itself that appropriate safeguarding measures (all reasonable precautions) are being taken to identify any activity which indicates that pupils or staff may be at risk of harm (or indeed putting others at risk). Leaders will need to ensure that appropriate time and resources are available to ensure that this is done sufficiently for a range of risks which will include radicalisation and extremism from a variety of perspectives as well as grooming and child sexual exploitation.

If schools/settings use devices which do not require pupils/staff to “login” to systems (such as iPads) to access the internet then they must ensure that there is appropriate mechanisms in place to log which member of the community has access to which devices to ensure that if concerns are identified, the school can trace users.

Staff with the responsibility for managing and monitoring the school filtering and network must have appropriate resources available to them as well as training and support to ensure that this can be carried out in both a manageable and a safe way. These decisions must be documented within the appropriate school policies (especially the school AUP) and be supported with training etc. and supervision all staff involved as well as the wider whole school staff and pupil group.

Schools should always be aware that simply relying on filtering to prevent radicalisation will not be sufficient as children are likely to have access to a range of devices within the home which may not be filtered or monitored, education around safe use if therefore essential. As all safeguarding risks, all members of staff should be alert to changes in children’s behaviour which may indicate that they may be at risk or in need of specific help or protection. All members of staff should receive appropriate training to enable them to explore their responsibilities with regards to prevent for safeguarding pupils and adults within the school community.

School staff should also understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme using the Prevent Referral form (available on Kelsi: <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding/prevent-within-schools> ). Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual’s engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

The Prevent team can be contacted for advice and support in respect of Prevent via [channel@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:channel@kent.pnn.police.uk) and [prevent@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@kent.pnn.police.uk)

Schools and settings may choose to highlight the overall response to the Prevent duty within existing policies and procedures rather than within the online safety policy.

## **A.5 Responding to concerns regarding cyberbullying**

### **Discussion:**

Online or cyberbullying can be defined as the use of Information Communication Technology, particularly mobile phones and the internet to deliberately hurt or upset someone.

Cyberbullying is becoming increasingly prevalent with the rapid advances and use of modern technology. Mobile, internet and wireless technologies have increased the pace of communication and brought significant benefits to users worldwide but their popularity provides increasing opportunity for misuse through 'cyberbullying', with worrying consequences. It's crucial that children and young people as well as adults, use their devices and the internet safely and positively and they are aware of the consequences of misuse. As technology develops, bullying techniques can evolve to exploit it.

When children or adults are the target of bullying via mobiles phones, gaming or the Internet, they can often feel very alone, particularly if those around them do not understand online bullying and its effects. A once previously safe and enjoyable environment or activity can become threatening, harmful and a source of anxiety.

Cyberbullying may not always be intentional and repeated in the same way that traditional offline bullying is. Repeated harassment online could include an initial concern which is then shared or endorsed by others such as by "liking", "sharing" or "commenting". People may not feel that they are bullying by doing this and single issue may become more serious. It is very important that all incidents of online abuse are addressed as early as possible to prevent escalation

Education staff, parents and young people have to be constantly vigilant and work together to prevent this and tackle it wherever it appears. Cyberbullying is a method of bullying and should be viewed and treated the same as "real world" bullying and can happen to any member of the school community.

It is essential that young people, school staff and parents and carers understand how online can affect people and how to respond and combat misuse. Promoting a culture of confident users will support innovation and safety.

There are a number of statutory obligations on schools with regard to behaviour which establish clear responsibilities to respond to bullying. In particular section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:

- every school must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. These measures should be part of the school's behaviour policy which must be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents
- gives headteachers the ability to ensure that pupils behave when they are not on school premises or under the lawful control of school staff.

Where online bullying which takes place outside school is reported then it must be investigated and acted on.

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm' and Emotional abuse highlights the impact of online bullying. Where this is the case, the school staff should report their concerns to the Education Safeguards Team. Even where safeguarding is not considered to be an issue, schools may need to draw on a range of external services to support the pupil who is experiencing bullying, or to tackle any underlying issue which has contributed to a child doing the bullying.

Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour or communications both on and offline could be a criminal offence,

for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986. If school staff feels that an offence may have been committed they should seek assistance from the police

Additional advice and information can be found at <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding/e-safety/cyberbullying>

For more information please read "Preventing and Tackling Bullying: Advice for School Leaders, Staff and Governing Bodies" <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

Childnet International have produced resources and guidance that can be used to give practical advice and guidance on cyberbullying: [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

## **Appendix B**

### ***Notes on the Legal Framework***

Many young people and indeed some staff and adults use the Internet regularly without being aware that some of the activities they take part in are potentially illegal.

This section is designed to inform users of potential legal issues relevant to the use of electronic communications. It is not professional advice and schools should always consult with their Area Safeguarding Adviser or the Education Safeguarding Adviser (Online Protection) from the Education Safeguarding Team, Legal representation, Local Authority Designated Officer or Kent Police if they are concerned that an offence may have been committed.

Please note that the law around this area is constantly updating due to the rapidly changing nature of the internet and this list is not exhaustive.

### **Data protection and Computer Misuse**

#### **Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988**

Copyright is the right to prevent others from copying or using his or her “work” without permission. The material to which copyright may attach (known in the business as “work”) must be the author’s own creation and the result of some skill and judgement. It comes about when an individual expresses an idea in a tangible form. Works such as text, music, sound, film and programs all qualify for copyright protection. The author of the work is usually the copyright owner, but if it was created during the course of employment it belongs to the employer.

It is an infringement of copyright to copy all or a substantial part of anyone’s work without obtaining the author’s permission. Usually a licence associated with the work will allow a user to copy or use it for limited purposes. It is advisable always to read the terms of a licence before you copy or use someone else’s material. It is also illegal to adapt or use software without a licence or in ways prohibited by the terms of the software licence.

#### **Data Protection Act 1998**

The Act requires anyone who handles personal information to notify the Information

Commissioner’s Office of the type of processing it administers, and must comply with important data protection principles when treating personal data relating to any living individual. The Act also grants individuals rights of access to their personal data, compensation and prevention of processing.

#### **The Computer Misuse Act 1990 (sections 1 - 3)**

Regardless of an individual’s motivation, the Act makes it a criminal offence to:

- gain access to computer files or software without permission (for example using someone else’s password to access files);
- gain unauthorised access, as above, in order to commit a further criminal act (such as fraud); or
- impair the operation of a computer or program (for example caused by viruses or denial of service attacks).

UK citizens or residents may be extradited to another country if they are suspected of committing any of the above offences.

## **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000**

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) regulates the interception of communications and makes it an offence to intercept or monitor communications without the consent of the parties involved in the communication. The RIP was enacted to comply with the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000, however, permit a degree of monitoring and record keeping, for example, to ensure communications are relevant to school activity or to investigate or detect unauthorised use of the network. Nevertheless, any monitoring is subject to informed consent, which means steps must have been taken to ensure that everyone who may use the system is informed that communications may be monitored.

Covert monitoring without informing users that surveillance is taking place risks breaching data protection and privacy legislation.

## **Obscene Content and Harassment**

### **Obscene Publications Act 1959 and 1964**

Publishing an “obscene” article is a criminal offence and this includes electronic transmission. For the purposes of the Act an article is deemed to be obscene if its effect is to deprave and corrupt persons who are likely, having regard to all relevant circumstances, to read, see or hear the content. This offence can result in imprisonment for up to 5 years.

### **Malicious Communications Act 1988 (section 1)**

This legislation makes it a criminal offence to send an electronic message that conveys indecent, grossly offensive, threatening material or information that is false; or is of an indecent or grossly offensive nature if the purpose was to cause a recipient to suffer distress or anxiety. This offence can result in imprisonment for up to 2 years.

### **Protection from Harassment Act 1997**

This Act is relevant for incidents that have happened repeatedly (i.e. on more than two occasions). The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it a criminal and civil offence to pursue a course of conduct which causes alarm and distress, which includes the publication of words, which he/she knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of the other. A person whose course of conduct causes another to fear, on at least two occasions, that violence will be used against him is guilty of an offence if he knows or ought to know that his course of conduct will cause the other so to fear on each of those occasions.

The victim can also bring a civil claim for damages and an injunction against the abuser, although in reality this is a remedy that is only used by individuals with the financial means to litigate, and only possible if the abuser can be identified, which is not always straightforward.

### **Public Order Act 1986 (sections 17 — 29)**

This Act makes it a criminal offence to stir up racial hatred by displaying, publishing or distributing written material which is threatening. Like the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 it also makes the possession of inflammatory material with a view of releasing it a criminal offence.

### **Communications Act 2003 (section 127)**

Sending by means of the Internet a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character; or sending a false message by means of or persistently making use of the Internet for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety is guilty of an offence liable, on conviction, to

imprisonment. This wording is important because an offence is complete as soon as the message has been sent: there is no need to prove any intent or purpose.

### **Criminal Justice Act 2003**

Section 146 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 came into effect in April 2005, empowering courts to impose tougher sentences for offences motivated or aggravated by the victim's sexual orientation in England and Wales.

### **Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006**

This Act makes it a criminal offence to threaten people because of their faith, or to stir up religious hatred by displaying, publishing or distributing written material which is threatening. Other laws already protect people from threats based on their race, nationality or ethnic background.

### **Libel and Privacy Law**

These matters will be dealt with under civil rather than criminal law.

Libel is defined as 'defamation by written or printed words, pictures, or in any form other than by spoken words or gestures' and as such could the author could be held accountable under Defamation law which was created to protect individuals or organisations from unwarranted, mistaken or untruthful attacks on their reputation. Defamation is a civil "common law" tort in respect of which the Defamation Acts of 1952 and 1996 provide certain defences. It applies to any published material that damages the reputation of an individual or an organisation, and it includes material published on the internet.

A civil action for defamation can be brought by an individual or a company, but not by a public authority. Where defamatory material is posted on a website, the person affected can inform the host of its contents and ask the host to remove it. Once the host knows that the material is there and that it may be defamatory, it can no longer rely on the defence of innocent dissemination in the Defamation Act 1996. This means that the person affected could (if the material has been published in the jurisdiction, i.e. in England and Wales) obtain a court order (an injunction) to require removal of the material, and could sue either the host or the person who posted the material for defamation.

If social media is used to publish private and confidential information (for example breaches of data protection act) about an individual, then this could give rise to a potential privacy claim and it is possible for individuals to seek an injunction and damages.

## **Education Law**

### **Education and Inspections Act 2006**

Section 89 of the states that every school must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. These measures should be part of the school's behaviour policy which must be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents. This act (89.5) gives headteachers the ability to ensure that pupils behave when they are not on school premises or under the lawful control of school staff.

### **The Education Act 2011**

Section 13 makes it an offence to publish the name of a teacher who is subject to an allegation until such a time as that they are charged with an offence. All members of the community need to be aware of the importance of not publishing named allegations against teachers online as this can lead to prosecution. Schools should contact the LADO team for advice.

Within Part 2 of the Education Act 2011 (Discipline) there have been changes to the powers afforded to schools by statute to search pupils in order to maintain discipline and ensure safety. The DfE advice on these sections of the Education Act 2011 can be found in the document: "Screening, searching and confiscation – Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies"

[www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolicies/f0076897/screening-searching-and-confiscation](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/behaviourpolicies/f0076897/screening-searching-and-confiscation)

## Sexual Offences

### Criminal Justice and Courts Bill 2015

Section 33 makes it an offence to share private, sexual materials, either photos or videos, of another person without their consent and with the purpose of causing embarrassment or distress, often referred to as "revenge porn". The offence applies both online and offline and to images which are shared electronically or in a more traditional way so includes the uploading of images on the internet, sharing by text and e-mail, or showing someone a physical or electronic image. This offence can result in imprisonment for up to 2 years.

Sending images of this kind may, depending on the circumstances, also be an offence under the Communications Act 2003 or the Malicious Communications Act 1988. Repeated behaviour may be an offence under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. This law and the term "revenge porn" only applies to images or videos of those over 18.

### Sexual Offences Act 2003

There are many offences under the Sexual Offence Act 2003 which can be related to or involve the misuse of technology. This includes (but is not limited to) the following points.

#### Section 15 - Meeting a child following sexual grooming.

The offence of grooming is committed if someone over 18 has communicated with a child under 16, at least twice (including by phone or using the Internet) and meets them or travels to meet with them anywhere in the world with the intention of committing a sexual offence. This offence can result in imprisonment for up to 10 years.

Causing or inciting a child under 16 to watch or take part in a sexual act is illegal, including looking at images such as videos, photos or webcams, for your own gratification.

- **Section 8. Causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity** (Can result in imprisonment for up to 14 years)
- **Section 9. Sexual Activity with a child** (Can result in imprisonment for up to 14 years)
- **Section 10. Causing or inciting a child (13 to 16) to engage in sexual activity** (Can result in imprisonment for up to 14 years)
- **Section 11. Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child** (Can result in imprisonment for up to 14 years)
- **Section 12. Causing a child to watch a sexual act** (Can result in imprisonment for up to 10 years)
- **Section 13. Child sex offences committed by children (offender is under 18)** (Can result in imprisonment for up to 5 years)

Any sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 13 commits the offence of rape.

#### Section 16 - Abuse of position of trust: sexual activity with a child.

It is an offence for a person in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity with any person under 18 with whom they know as a result of being in their professional role. It is also an offence cause or incite a child with whom they are in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity, to engage in sexual activity in the presence of a child

with whom they are in a position of trust, or cause a child with whom they are in a position of trust to watch a sexual act. Typically, teachers, social workers, health professionals, connexions staff etc. fall in this category of trust and this can result in imprisonment for up to 5 years.

### **Indecent Images of Children**

It is an offence to take, permit to be taken, make, possess, show, distribute or advertise indecent images of children in the United Kingdom under two pieces of legislation; **Criminal Justice Act 1988**, section 160 and **Protection of Children Act 1978**, section 1.1.a. Indecent images of children are images of children (under 18 years) depicting sexual posing, performing sexual acts on themselves or others, animals or sadomasochism.

A child for these purposes is considered to be anyone under the age of 18. An image of a child also covers pseudo-photographs (digitally collated or otherwise). This offence can include images taken by and distributed by the child themselves (often referred to as "Sexting", see section 9.1). Viewing an indecent image of a child on your computer or phone means that you have made a digital image and printing/forwarding/sharing/publishing can be considered to be distribution. A person convicted of such an offence may face up to 10 years in prison.

### **Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008**

Section 63 makes it an offence to possess "extreme pornographic images". 63 (6) identifies that such images must be considered to be "grossly offensive, disgusting or otherwise obscene". Section 63 (7) includes images of "threats to a person life or injury to anus, breasts or genitals, sexual acts with a corpse or animal whether alive or dead" must also be "explicit and realistic". Penalties for possession of extreme pornographic images can be up to 3 years imprisonment.

### **The Serious Crime Act 2015**

Part 5 (Protection of Children) section 67 makes it a criminal offence for an adult (person aged over 18) to send a child (under 16) sexualised communications or sends communications intended to elicit a sexual communications. The offence is committed whether or not the child communicates with the adult. Penalties for sexual communication with a child can be up to 2 years imprisonment.

Section 69 makes it an offence to be in possession of paedophile manuals, information or guides (physically or electronically) which provide advice or guidance on sexually abusing children. Penalties for possession of such content can be up to 3 years imprisonment.

This law also removed references in existing legislation to terms such as child prostitution and child pornography and identified that this should be viewed to be child sexual exploitation.

## **Appendix C**

### ***Online Safety (e-Safety) Contacts and References***

#### ***Kent Support and Guidance***

**Kent County Councils Education Safeguards Team:**

[www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/support-for-children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding)

**Kent Online Safety Support for Education Settings**

- Rebecca Avery, Education Safeguarding Adviser (Online Protection)
- Ashley Gorton, e-Safety Development Officer
- [esafetyofficer@kent.gov.uk](mailto:esafetyofficer@kent.gov.uk) Tel: 03000 415797

**Kent Police:**

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk) or [www.kent.police.uk/internetsafety](http://www.kent.police.uk/internetsafety)

In an emergency (a life is in danger or a crime in progress) dial 999. For other non-urgent enquiries contact Kent Police via 101

**Kent Public Service Network (KPSN):** [www.kpsn.net](http://www.kpsn.net)

**Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB):** [www.kscb.org.uk](http://www.kscb.org.uk)

**Kent e-Safety Blog:** [www.kentesafety.wordpress.com](http://www.kentesafety.wordpress.com)

**EiS - ICT Support for Schools and Kent Schools Broadband Service Desk:** [www.eiskent.co.uk](http://www.eiskent.co.uk)

#### ***National Links and Resources***

**Action Fraud:** [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

**BBC WebWise:** [www.bbc.co.uk/webwise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise)

**CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre):** [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

**ChildLine:** [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**Childnet:** [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

**Get Safe Online:** [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

**Internet Matters:** [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

**Internet Watch Foundation (IWF):** [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

**Lucy Faithfull Foundation:** [www.lucyfaithfull.org](http://www.lucyfaithfull.org)

**Know the Net:** [www.knowthenet.org.uk](http://www.knowthenet.org.uk)

**Net Aware:** [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

**NSPCC:** [www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)

**Parent Port:** [www.parentport.org.uk](http://www.parentport.org.uk)

**Professional Online Safety Helpline:** [www.saferinternet.org.uk/about/helpline](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/about/helpline)

**The Marie Collins Foundation:** <http://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/>

**Think U Know:** [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

**Virtual Global Taskforce:** [www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com](http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com)

**UK Safer Internet Centre:** [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

**360 Safe Self-Review tool for schools:** <https://360safe.org.uk/>

**Online Compass (Self review tool for other settings):** <http://www.onlinecompass.org.uk/>