**Safeguarding Bulletin #9 – June 2024**

**Sextortion**

**Sextortion** is the term used to describe financially motivated sexual extortion & blackmail. There has been a sharp rise in cases, most notably in males aged between 14 – 18.

The National Crime Agency have created a document for schools (link below), which goes further to explain what it looks like and how to support victims. It also asks the following of teachers and educational settings:

* Develop your understanding of financially motivated sexual extortion using this alert and read the recently updated ‘Sharing nudes and semi-nudes’ guidance published by the UK Council for Internet Safety
* Refer concerns, if disclosed or discovered, to local police and/or local authority children’s services through your safeguarding procedures
* Avoid using victim-blaming language and support children and young people in getting their images removed\*
* Whilst the responsibility is not on the child, know how you can support children and young people to understand how they can respond safely to requests or pressure to provide nude or semi-nude images or videos

\*Please note – a link to ‘Report Remove’ is on the Aspiring Girls website.

***For further information****:*

National Crime Agency – What schools need to know: [CEOP - Sextortion](https://guildfordhigh.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/EfWxx-LzcbFInHnmhsXZ6qQBBP0SmczuRCLL0shCTzIH1w?e=Hbuj6s)

BBC News - 'Sextortion guides' sold on social media: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp00y03q93mo>

Government Guidance (updated March 2024): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sharing-nudes-and-semi-nudes-advice-for-education-settings-working-with-children-and-young-people>

**Surrey Police** have created a campaign ‘It’s not ok to ask’ to challenge the norms and expectations that can facilitate instances of youth produced Sexual Imagery (YPSI). It’s aims are:

* Presenting not asking for images as a positive choice for young people and making it aspirational NOT to ask, and in turn NOT to send.
* Challenging perceptions that asking for/being asked for images is ‘expected’, part of life/ everyone is doing it.
* Highlighting and encouraging positive behaviours between young people.
* Empowering young people to say no if asked for an image. − This is secondary because both young people and parents were clear that the most important behaviour to address is asking – preventing the ask happening.

Further details of the campaign here: [Campaign introduction (1) (1)](https://guildfordhigh.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/EYx7Li3GJAhAjjWGEkkJaX4BpzJ53Vz5uszkXJBO0IWdMA?e=cElues)

**What we do at GHS:**

We empower and educate pupils to make informed choices on how to keep themselves safe – this includes how to spot the signs of unhealthy relationships and know to report any negative changes to behaviour they notice in others.

We promote open and honest communication and encourage students to seek help or advice when needed. ‘Who should I talk to’ posters help signpost avenues of support.

We teach digital literacy, which begins in Key Stage 1 and spirals through Junior and Senior school. Years 8 and 9 had a workshop from the Breck Foundation this year, which specifically focused on grooming and covered sexual exploitation.

We teach about healthy and unhealthy relationships from reception to Year 13 and this includes a clear understanding of consent (non-sexual and sexual)

We communicate with parents to educate and empower them in knowing how to help safeguard their child, particularly around social media use.