

Rock Against Child Pornography and Abuse

Is a registered charity working to give a voice to the silent victims of childhood abuse. The children of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

RACPA UK can be found at

www.racpauk.org

and on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

We can also be contacted confidentially at:

racpauk@gmail.com

Further important information can be found at

www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com

www.ceop.gov.uk

www.iwf.org.uk

All these agencies work on a national and international basis to protect children from online exploitation of any kind and have simple reporting procedures for child pornography websites, inappropriate content or contact concerning children or young people and for advice and information in all aspects of internet safety.

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What you need to know about CYBER FLASHING

Advice and information for parents and carers



What is Cyber Flashing?

Cyber flashing is when an unsolicited photo of a person's genitals is sent without consent, either through social media apps like Instagram or SnapChat or an iPhone's AirDrop feature. The term can also apply to the same action carried out entirely through Bluetooth and other online services. It can happen at a gig, at school or, very commonly, on public transport.

Current research shows that 76% of girls aged 12-18 have been sent unsolicited nude images of boys or men.

Cyber Flashing is a crime and as a result, people found guilty of Cyber Flashing can face up to two years in prison.

Examples of Cyber Flashing

When someone sends another person an unwanted photo or video of either their genitals or someone else's, this is commonly known as a 'dick pic'. It is also when someone exposes themselves to another person over live video.

What you can do as a parent.

As a parent or carer it is important to understand the risks involved and the dangers that may face children if they get caught up in this, and what to do if the worst happens.

Discuss boundaries - Tell your child that their boundaries are valid and that if anything breaks those boundaries, whether it's strangers inside or outside of school or even close friends or friends of friends, then they should speak to you or a trusted adult about it straight away. Make sure that they know you will support them without judgement no matter what happens.

Check your child's phone settings - If your child has an iPhone, check their AirDrop settings with them and, if necessary, look at their privacy settings. The default is set to "Everyone", meaning anyone nearby can send unsolicited photos straight to your child's phone. It is recommended switching to "Contacts Only" so that only friends can send photos, or even "Receiving Off" if you and your child decide this is the safest option for them.

Look through your child's apps with them and set privacy settings to "friends only". Be selective about who can follow them, or they can follow.

Keep calm and praise them for approaching you - It can be very difficult for a child to speak up about things which they perhaps don't fully know about or which they may find embarrassing. They may have gone through a lot of anxiety and worry to bring it up with you, so make sure you insist that they have done the right thing and that none of it is their fault.

Never ignore the subject and hope it will go away, don't accept that it's just 'one of those things' and nothing bad will come of it. ANY image like this can be distressing. Let them know that once it's in cyberspace it becomes public property. Don't let your child do something they may live to regret because of your own possible embarrassment about talking the issues through.

Remind them that this sort of behaviour is a crime and should be reported.

How do I report cyber flashing?

You can now report cyber flashing incidents to the police by calling 101. If the incident happened on public transport the British Transport Police have been seen to take this kind of harassment seriously. You can also report to them via 101.

If this incident happened at school or university seek support from a teacher or member of staff. It is important to remember that this is a form of cyber harassment and can be violating, humiliating, and distressing.

More help and advice can be found at –

<https://survivorsnetwork.org.uk/resource/cyber-flashing-support-and-resources>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/cyberflashing>