



THE CORBET SCHOOL

Headteacher Mr P N Adams BSc Pg Dip

Wednesday 4th January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to raise awareness of 'sexting' among young people.

'Sexting' generally refers to the sending of explicit images via text, email, MSN or through other social media networking sites.

In school we ensure that all pupils are educated on the safe and appropriate use of the Internet and digital technology, including The Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) training to help pupils understand the risks involved with using technology. However, a study carried out by SWGFL in partnership with the University of Plymouth and the NSPCC indicates that a large number of today's children consider sexting to be a 'normal' behaviour.

Schools are dealing with these issues more frequently. While the incidents take place outside of school, in the evenings and at weekends, etc., there can be an obvious detrimental effect on the well-being and happiness of children in school. As Child Protection Officer at The Corbet School, I must emphasise that inappropriate online activity, such as sexting, can lead to further action being taken, including notifying social services and the police. **It is a criminal offence for a person under the age of 18 to take or share an indecent picture of themselves, or to look at or share someone else's.**

Further clear messages from the research carried out by the NSPCC show that:

- The primary threat comes from peers, not 'stranger danger'
- Sexting often involves children being put under pressure to participate
- Both girls and boys are sending these images
- Sexting reveals wider sexual pressures
- Ever younger children are affected

Discussing these issues at home will reinforce what we are doing in school and we believe that being well informed is the best protection. You may find some of the links below a useful starting point.

<http://swgfl.org.uk/products-services/esafety/resources>

<http://saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers>

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/sexting/>

These resources will also advise you on how to monitor the online activity of your child, which is an important step in keeping children safe online.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping keep children safe online.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Millward
Assistant Head, Pupil Support