



Briefing Note

New Plans to Stop Children Taking, Sharing or Viewing Nude Images For: DSLs, Senior Leaders, Governors

Home Office - July 2026



HELEN HOGAN:
SAFEGUARDING
MATTERS

The government has set out **new national measures** aimed at reducing the creation, sharing and viewing of nude images by children. This follows growing concern about:

- the scale of youth-produced sexual images,
- coercion and exploitation linked to image sharing,
- the role of social media and AI tools,
- the impact on children’s mental health, safety and wellbeing.

These proposals will shape future statutory guidance, school safeguarding expectations, and multi-agency responses to online sexual risk.

Key Elements of The Government’s Plan

Stronger restrictions on children’s access to harmful online features

The government intends to tighten controls on platforms and functionalities that enable:

- taking or uploading sexualised images,
- sharing images privately (DMs, disappearing messages),
- viewing sexual content, including AI-generated sexual material.

This aligns with wider national consultation findings showing overwhelming public support for stricter online protections.

New expectations for tech companies

The announcement signals future requirements for platforms to:

- **block under-16s** from accessing features that allow nude image creation or sharing,
- **strengthen age assurance**,
- **detect and prevent** circulation of youth-produced sexual images,
- **remove harmful content quickly**,
- **design safer environments** that reduce sexual risk.

Education and prevention for children and parents

The government will expand:

- curriculum content on online sexual risk,
- guidance for parents on preventing image sharing,
- resources for schools to teach safe digital behaviour.

Clearer multi-agency responses to youth-produced sexual images

The announcement emphasises:

- consistent police responses,
- better support for victims,
- proportionate handling of incidents involving children,
- reducing criminalisation of children while still addressing harm.

What This Means For Schools & DSLs

Youth-produced sexual images must be treated as safeguarding, not just behaviour

DSLs should ensure staff understand:

- taking, sharing or viewing nude images is **a safeguarding concern**,
- coercion, pressure, blackmail and exploitation are common,
- incidents often link to wider vulnerabilities (SEND, mental health, domestic abuse, peer exploitation).

Stronger prevention and education expectations

Schools will be expected to:

- teach online sexual risk more explicitly,
- address image sharing in RSHE and digital literacy,
- provide clear guidance to pupils on reporting concerns,
- support parents to understand risks and protective actions.

Updated policies and procedures

Schools should prepare to update:

- online safety policies,
- mobile phone/device policies,
- behaviour and safeguarding procedures,
- curriculum plans for RSHE and computing.

More robust responses to incidents

DSLs should ensure:

- incidents are recorded as safeguarding,
- coercion, exploitation and power imbalance are explored,
- police are consulted where appropriate,
- children are supported without blame or shame,
- images are not downloaded, copied or shared by staff.

Increased focus on AI-related sexual risk

Schools must be alert to:

- AI tools generating sexualised images of children,
- deepfake risks,
- children being encouraged to create sexual content via AI chatbots.

Practical actions for DSLs

- **Review current online safety curriculum** to ensure image sharing is explicitly covered.
- **Update staff training** to include coercion, peer pressure, blackmail and AI-related risks.
- **Audit mobile phone and device policies** to ensure they reduce opportunities for image creation and sharing.

- **Strengthen parent communication** on online sexual risk and protective strategies.
- **Ensure clear reporting routes** for pupils worried about image-sharing or coercion.
- **Prepare for future statutory updates** to *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and RSHE guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plans-to-stop-children-taking-sharing-or-viewing-nude-images>