

SEXTING MYTHBUSTER

~ for staff use ~

MYTH

Sexting is always harmful.

REALITY

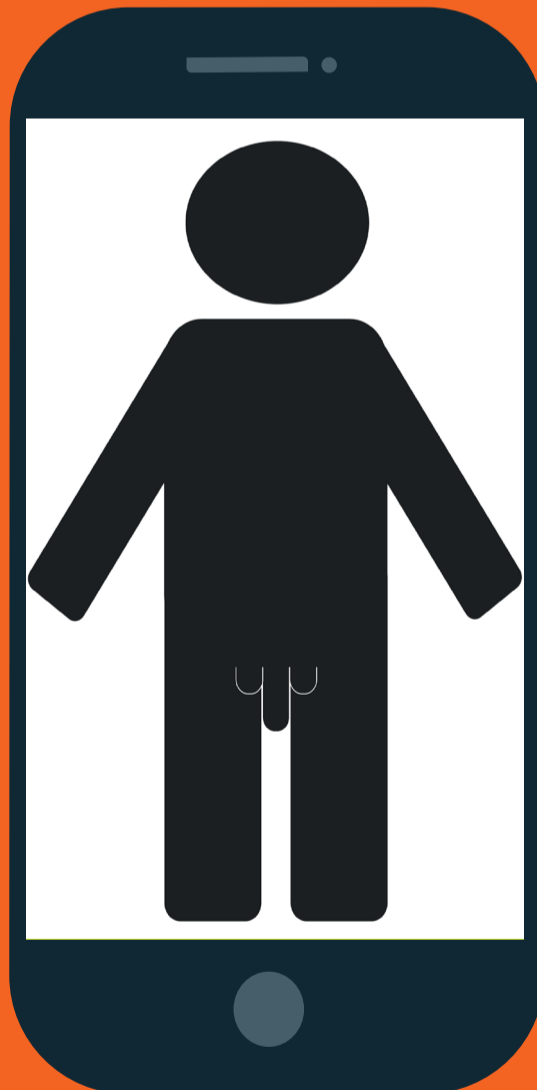
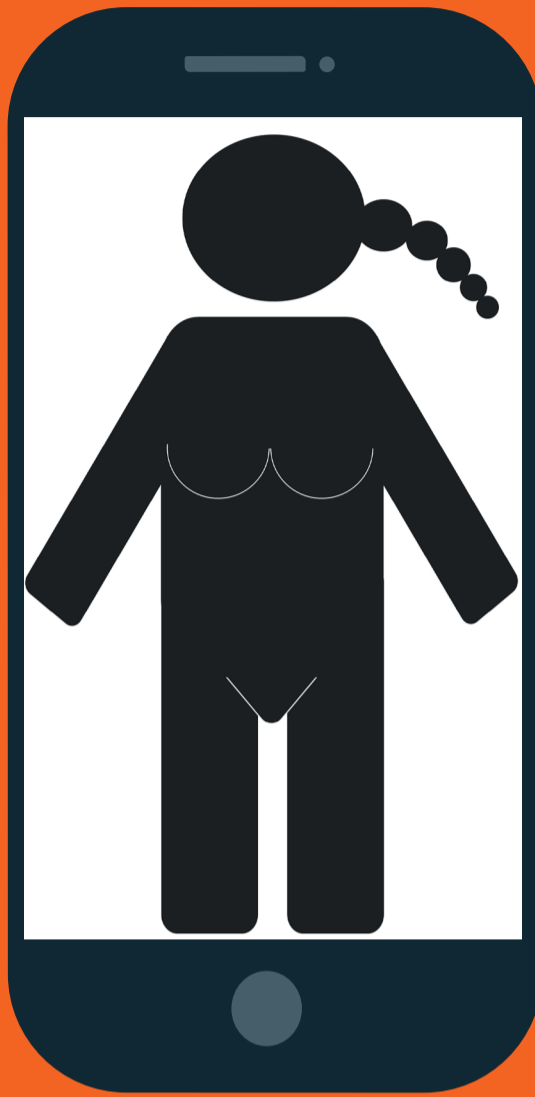
Sexting means different things to different people: text or images, semi or totally nude, sexual or non-sexual. Young people use different terms anyway. Youth sexting can be risky and harmful but it can also be exploration, as part of growing up, often done between peers and not always for sexual purposes.

MYTH

All young people are sharing explicit images.

REALITY

Statistics vary but there are lots of different definitions of 'sexting' and it is unclear exactly what young people send and how often.



MYTH

Unless charged or convicted, young people won't get a criminal record.

REALITY

No conviction equals no 'criminal record', but nominal records are normally added to police databases and these MAY be disclosed in future enhanced DBS checks.

MYTH

Young people who sext are at risk of adult exploitation.

REALITY

Yes this can be a risk, but studies have shown that young people are most likely to share images with peers, not with strangers.

LGfL

DigiSafe