

# SEXTORTION SCAM

## ONLINE SAFETY BULLETIN

### **Sextortion - In The News**

**Mr Kemp - Deputy Head (Pastoral)**

You may have seen recent headlines on the rise of sextortion. This has been triggered after a crime alert was issued on the topic, which is a rare occurrence.

From experience, I know that children in Independent Schools can be targeted given the assumption that they have access to more money than the average child. Sadly, I have worked with several young people who thought they were engaging in an online friendship/relationship which escalated to sending nude images (previously called sexting). A reminder that the act of sending nude images is extremely common and so young people would not necessarily consider it unusual. One report from 2023 stated:

“Nearly two-fifths (39%) of the UK public surveyed admit to first sharing explicit content while they were underage”.



# Sextortion - In The News

We know that students usually use apps like **Whatsapp** and **Snapchat**. However, they may also make use of lesser-known apps like **Wink, BeFriend** as well as **Telegram** or **Yubo** as featured in this newsletter.

Once received, the threat of widespread distribution starts and they are forced to realise that the person is not who they said they were.

It is important that students feel comfortable enough to turn to an adult if they need help, as these sorts of threats can have a massive impact on their wellbeing. It is good practice to ask them who they would speak to at school if they had a problem

This is one of possible mechanisms used by criminals and so I would recommend reading the following report from the National Crime Agency.

## WARNING SIGNS

- No working camera
- Chats switch to “adult” quickly
- Use of fear tactics
- Fast-paced contact
- Profile with few photos
- Profile with few followers



<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-issues-urgent-warning-about-sextortion>

# SEXTORTION

WHO ARE YOU REALLY TALKING TO?

Hi, David, I'm Maria! Your profile picture is cute.

Do you have a girlfriend? xx



**DO NOT**  
accept random/unknown  
friend requests



**DO NOT**  
engage in sexualised  
video chat



**DO NOT**  
send money

**Report confidentially to police for support & advice.**

