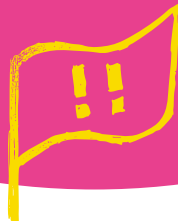




What to do if...



**someone
sends my child
indecent images**



Your guide on **what to do if**
someone sends your child indecent images

1 in 4

Children sharing harmful experiences described Online Child Sexual Abuse*

*Figure taken from children who shared harmful experiences during our Respected and Safe program.

If someone has sent your child an indecent image, this can be really overwhelming and it's really important to support them. It is against the law to send a child a nude or part nude.



We know from listening to children as part of Respected and Safe that this happens far too often – sometimes this might make it seem normalised. But it is **never okay** and the law is there to protect children from this kind of harm.

If you find out someone has sent your child an indecent image, it's really important to try to stay calm and support them in getting the incident reported.

Although it might be our first instinct to block the person and ignore it, it's important to **report it properly**.

We have some safety steps for you to follow

Reassure

Children can find it **very difficult** to share when something like this has happened online.



It can be hard for them to recognise these behaviours as harmful or feel confident to get support. They may feel nothing can be done about it. Or they may worry it is their fault, or they or others will be punished (especially having the device or app removed) if they mention anything.

Reassure your child that they are not in trouble (and that they have done right thing by telling you). Make sure they know **you are there to support them**, and that you will find a solution together.

Stop and Don't Delete

If someone has sent something that makes a child feel uncomfortable or that they think might get them in trouble, they may want to delete the chat as quickly as possible.



It's important to support them to **stop replying** (whether it is one person or a group chat) but **not delete the chat**. They can block the person without losing the messages.

Even if messages appear to have disappeared from the app (e.g. Snapchat) or have been deleted, they can be recovered later by the Police. If your child has taken screenshots or a screen recording, or a note of any relevant username or group name, hold onto those.

These messages then need to be reported (see next step) so that we can all help stop this happening again to them or other children. Even if things have been deleted, you can and should still report.

Report It To The Police

Help them to report the incident to the police.

It's really important that we get more of this kind of online harm reported to the police.



You can report to the police by calling 101.

If your child wants to report something that has happened online, but doesn't want to report directly to the police (either by themselves or with your help), you can also help them to make a report via CEOP www.ceop.police.uk. Using the CEOP website, they can confidentially make a written report.

It is only through gathering more information that it can become possible for police to work out who is behind accounts requesting images from children; reporting an incident could help other children, too.

If you don't feel confident to do this, please contact us through our website and we can support you to report.

YOU CAN ALWAYS TALK TO US

Report It To The Platform

Once you have helped them to report the incident to the police, then you can support your child to report it to the platform where it happened, using in-app reporting tools.



Social media platforms don't usually process reports to police – so it's important to support children to report incidents properly before carefully using in-app reporting tools to say exactly what kind of harm has happened.



Everything that happens
to children online *matters*.

cybersafescotland.org