

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER.



SEXTORTION – NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY ALERT

Financially motivated sexual extortion: alert for education settings

29/04/24

Globally, there has been a large increase in reports of children and young people being forced into paying money or meeting another financial demand (such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card) after an offender has threatened to release nudes or semi-nudes of them. This is financially motivated sexual extortion, a type of online blackmail often referred to in the media as 'sextortion'.¹ It is a form of child sexual abuse.

Financially motivated sexual extortion is usually carried out by organised crime groups (OCGs) based overseas who are typically motivated by money. These groups target all ages and genders however, a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18.

(source: [FMSE Alert \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#))

The NCA/CEOP have identified key steps for educational settings and schools:

- Develop your understanding of financially motivated sexual extortion using this alert and read the recently updated '[Sharing nudes and semi-nudes](#)' guidance published by the UK Council for Internet Safety
- Refer concerns, if disclosed or discovered, to local police and/or local authority children's services through your safeguarding procedures
- Avoid using [victim-blaming language](#) and support children and young people in getting their images removed
- Whilst the responsibility is not on the child, know how you can support children and young people to understand how they can respond safely to requests or pressure to provide nude or semi-nude images or videos.

(source: [FMSE Alert \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#))

Further support and resources for professionals can be found on the [UK Safer Internet Center](#) dedicated webpage.

Information and guidance relating to this for parents and carers is available in our parent/carer online safety newsletter.



SENSO MONITORING - NOW FREE FOR HFL SUPPORTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS



There is great news for primary schools that have support contracts with HFL. We can now provide *Senso Safeguarding Monitoring* to you, bundled into your existing contract, at no extra cost.

Senso Safeguarding Monitoring will run over your managed Windows devices, as well as your Chromebooks. This software monitors keystrokes and if certain words are typed by users, a screenshot will be taken and sent to the relevant school staff. This makes it ideal for DSLs and schools to manage their online KCSIE duties.

We can set this up for you and provide online training for your staff. You just need to have a TiS network support contract and to have renewed your HFL broadband agreement.

For secondary schools we have negotiated a discounted HFL price for an appropriate solution for your setting.

If you wish to explore this opportunity, please email our Support Team on: support@hfleducation.org and we can then advise you on next steps.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION:

Discussions about the integration of AI in education are becoming increasingly common, with extensive exploration into its potential to support educators, schools, and students effectively and safely.

HFL Education has produced a blog and eLearning course to further support educators:

BLOG: [A beginner's guide to generative AI in education | HFL Education](#)

ELEARNING: [A beginner's guide to generative AI in education - eLearning \(hfleducation.org\)](#)

To help give educators a start in understanding and using generative AI, HFL has created a **short, freely accessible eLearning course**. It features a number of videos that demonstrate time-saving uses of freely available tools.

Commonsense Media have carried out an product reviews for ten well used AI products. The reviews identify the product's opportunities, considerations, and limitations.

AI Initiative | Common Sense Media



The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the HFL Education Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. Contact the team at wellbeing@hfleducation.org or call 01438 544464.

HFL Education is a leading national provider of school improvement and business support services, training, and resources, which enable schools, educational settings and multi-academy trusts to deliver a great education.

We support those we work with to achieve successful long-term outcomes for their children.

We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live, their background or circumstances.



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