

June 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the Safer Schools Police Officer based in King's Lynn secondary schools, I am writing to bring your attention to a recent national report into young people's exposure to online pornography.

The report from the Children's Commissioner raises concerns about the normalisation of sexual violence and how this shapes children's understanding of sex and relationships.

The key points are highlighted in the attached poster and are very worrying not only to me as a police officer but also as a father.

You can find the full report here:

['A lot of it is actually just abuse'- Young people and pornography | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/young-people-and-pornography/)

Since accepting my role at King's Lynn Academy and Springwood High School in September 2022 a lot of issues I have dealt with involve the inappropriate use of social media and the internet.

Norfolk Police is working in partnership with both schools to raise awareness of this global issue and to help keep young people safe. At King's Lynn Academy the issue of online pornography is currently covered in Personal Development lessons for pupils in years 10 and 11. However, following the release of this report, and in response to its worrying findings, the school has decided to carry out a review into whether this provision should be included in Key Stage 3 too with age-appropriate material.

Topics covered at King's Lynn Academy during Personal Development include:

- Year 11 - revenge porn and up skirting, sexual bullying and sexting.
- Year 10 - sexting, porn and the law regarding sharing images.

As with all subject curriculum material at KLA, detailed information about the key learning, resources and curriculum coverage for Personal Development can be found on the school's extensive curriculum pages on the website, if you would like to know more.

You can help support and reinforce these messages by talking with your children about them and knowing what they are doing on their electronic devices.

As a parent I understand how difficult it can be to have these conversations. To help, Norfolk Police has created a 'Family Internet Agreement' which offers some guidance on how parents and children can work together to stay safe online.


You can find it here: [familyinternetagreementv1.pdf \(norfolk.police.uk\)](https://www.norfolk.police.uk/family-internet-agreement/)

Earlier this year I took part in a Norfolk Police live webinar talking about internet safety with talks from the Safeguarding Children Online Team (SCOLT), Prevent, Cyber security and Norfolk Police Youth Engagement Team.

The SCOLT presentation included a step-by-step demonstration about how to check mobile phones on both Apple and Android devices which I hope you will find useful if required.

The webinar can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4gmxyCzTU8>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PC 1858 James Smith