Rationale:
The use of mobile hand-held devices and other electronic tools to communicate by text message (texting) and to share electronic photographs and videos has become a very common and everyday occurrence in most people’s lives - particularly young people. The term ‘sexting’ refers the practice of capturing, sharing and circulating sexually explicit images, videos and text. Sexting may be illegal, may lead to significant personal, social and emotional consequences, and may lead to life-long negative outcomes.

Aims:
- To ensure students and families are aware of the consequences and actions that may occur should students choose to participate in sexting.
- To make students aware of the dangers of texting and that this is an illegal practice.
- To equip students to be responsible users of technology and devices.

Implementation:
- Sexting involving images, videos or text of a person under the age of 18 years is illegal.
- Images, videos or text of a person under the age of 18 years are child pornography.
- Serious legal consequences, including long jail terms, substantial fines and placement on the Sex Offenders registry are potential outcomes for people having in their possession or having circulated images, videos or text of a person under the age of 18 years.
- Serious long term social and emotional consequences may occur as a result of an individual having images, videos or text of them in circulation.
- Once circulated on the internet, it is virtually impossible to retrieve or permanently delete images, videos or text.
- Sexting images, videos or text of a person under the age of 18 years is illegal even if the participants (or their families) are consenting. Sexting images, videos or text of yourself is also illegal if you are a person under the age of 18 years.
- All students at our school will be made aware of the potentially legal and social consequences of sexting through year group meetings and Welfare program days.
- All families will be provided with information regarding sexting, the potential legal and social consequences of sexting, advice regarding sexting discussions with their children, support and information services, and possible courses of action.
As sexting images, videos or text of a person under the age of 18 years is an illegal activity, such incidents must be reported by the school to the police and the Department of Education and Communities for appropriate action.

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