

PSHE SESSION GUIDE

Online Safety: Deepfakes, Sextortion & the Law

KS4

KS5

Years 10–13

Ages 14–18

60 minutes

RSHE 2026

PSHE Association

KCSIE 2024

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Understand what deepfakes are and how AI is used to create them
- ✓ Recognise the warning signs and tactics of sextortion
- ✓ Know the legal consequences of creating or sharing intimate images without consent
- ✓ Understand digital footprint and long-term reputational impact
- ✓ Know how and where to report incidents and get support

TEACHER NOTES

This session covers sensitive topics including sexual coercion and image-based abuse. Brief your DSL before delivery. Follow your school's safeguarding policy if a student discloses. Students who appear distressed should be supported individually after the session.

⚠ SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

If a student discloses during this session, do not investigate. Listen, record and refer to your DSL immediately.

Childline: 0800 1111 (free, confidential, 24 hours)

LESSON TIMELINE

60-Minute Session Plan

00– 05	Starter: "Real or Fake?" Show 3 images — students vote real/AI. Reveal answers. Introduce the concept of deepfakes. No tech needed.
05– 15	Input: What is a deepfake? How AI generates realistic images/video from a single photo. Why this matters: used in NCII, financial fraud, reputation damage. Key term: NCII — Non-Consensual Intimate Images.
15– 25	Input: Sextortion — How it works Two types: financial (pay or we share) and sexual (send more or we share). How it starts: fake profiles, gaming platforms, social media. Who is behind it: often organised criminal networks, not individuals. Key message: it is never the victim's fault. The criminal commits the crime.
25– 35	The Law — What counts as a crime? Online Safety Act 2023: sharing intimate images without consent is illegal. Taking intimate images without consent: illegal. Threatening to share intimate images: illegal. Creating AI-generated NCII: illegal under the Criminal Justice Act 2024. Age of digital consent: 18 for intimate images regardless of relationship.
35– 45	Digital Footprint Everything posted or shared creates a permanent record. Screenshots always exist even after deletion. Impact: university admissions, job applications, relationships. Activity: "What does your digital footprint say about you?"
45– 55	Group Scenarios (3 groups, one scenario each — see page 3) Groups discuss: What happened? What should they do? Who can help? Groups feed back — teacher facilitates.
55– 60	Exit Ticket + Signposting One thing learned. One thing they'd do differently. Hand out/display support contacts.

CONTENT GUIDE + DISCUSSION SCENARIOS

KEY CONCEPTS

DEEPPAKES

AI tools can generate realistic intimate images from a single clothed photo. Free tools exist and require no technical skill. The resulting images are realistic enough to cause serious harm even when clearly fabricated. Legal position: creating or sharing AI-generated NCII is a criminal offence under the Criminal Justice Act 2024.

SEXTORTION

Financial sextortion: target is contacted by someone who claims to have intimate images and demands payment to prevent sharing. Payment never stops the demands. Sexual sextortion: target is coerced into providing further intimate content under threat of sharing existing images. Often escalates rapidly. Key message for students: do not pay. Do not send more. Report immediately.

NCII – NON-CONSENSUAL INTIMATE IMAGES

Sharing intimate images without consent was criminalised under the Online Safety Act 2023. The Criminal Justice Act 2024 extended this to cover threats to share and the taking of intimate images without consent. Report to: NCII Support Hub (ncii.support) · Revenge Porn Helpline (0345 6000 459)

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every post, like, share and search leaves a trace. Deleted content is not gone – screenshots exist, server logs persist. University admissions teams and employers check social media. A digital footprint built now will still be visible in 10 years.

DISCUSSION SCENARIOS

SCENARIO A – Josh, 17

Josh matched with someone on a gaming platform who quickly moved the conversation to Instagram. After weeks of chatting, they exchanged photos. The contact is now demanding £200 or they will share Josh's images with his school contacts.

Discussion: What has happened here? What should Josh do first? What should he NOT do? Who can help him?

SCENARIO B – Mia, 16

Mia discovers that AI-generated intimate images of her are circulating in a Year 11 group chat. She does not know who created them or how.

Discussion: Has a crime been committed? What are Mia's options? What should the students who received the images do?

SCENARIO C – Anonymous report

A student anonymously tells a peer they have been sharing intimate images with someone they met online and now feels they cannot stop.

Discussion: Is this person in danger? What kind of support do they need? How should the peer respond?

What Do You Know? – Student Reflection

Section 1 – True or False? (The Law)

1. It is only illegal to share intimate images if you took them yourself.

T F

Answer: False – sharing any intimate image without consent is illegal

2. AI-generated intimate images of real people are illegal to create.

T F

Answer: True – Criminal Justice Act 2024

3. Paying a sextortionist usually stops the demands.

T F

Answer: False – payment never stops demands, it escalates them

4. Deleting a photo means it no longer exists anywhere.

T F

Answer: False – screenshots and server logs persist

5. Threatening to share someone's images is a criminal offence.

T F

Answer: True – Criminal Justice Act 2024

6. If someone shares your images without consent, it is partly your fault.

T F

Answer: False – the person who shares commits the crime, not the victim

Section 2 – My Digital Footprint Pledge

"One thing I will do differently online after today:"

Section 3 – If You Need Support

Help is available – you are not alone

Childline: 0800 1111 · [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk) (free, confidential, 24 hours)

CEOP: ceop.police.uk (report online child sexual exploitation)

NCII Support Hub: ncii.support (intimate image abuse)

Revenge Porn Helpline: 0345 6000 459

Trusted adult at school: speak to your form tutor or school counsellor