



A sext is  
for life,  
not just for

**Christmas**



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beat bullying



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[www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk)



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November 2015

Dear Colleague

The risks associated with social media and internet-related crimes are very well documented but less attention has been given to the growing popularity of young people ‘sexting’ each other.

As we approach the Christmas period, when many young people will be receiving gifts of mobile phones and tablets, we are keen to deliver a timely warning that sharing personal, illicit images, even as a practical joke, can have serious consequences.

That’s why, this year, we want to send out a clear message that *A ‘sext’ is for life, not just for Christmas.*

We have serious concerns at the prevalence of this kind of activity among teenagers across social media platforms, mobile phone apps and traditional text messages. Many, if not all, of the young people concerned have little idea that choosing to share explicit images of themselves, or others, can have long-lasting ramifications, and could also technically constitute a criminal offence that could have lifelong implications for career opportunities.

This year we are approaching every school in Derbyshire to ensure pupils across the county recognise the risks associated with ‘sexting’ and have developed the attached poster to assist with this. We are asking for your help to remind pupils and students that what they do with their new mobile phones or tablets could put them at risk. A ‘sext’ can last much longer than a relationship. In fact, once a photograph has been uploaded to the internet, it is virtually impossible to remove it, jeopardising the reputation of the individual for the rest of their life. Once ‘sent’ or ‘forwarded’ the message is completely out of their control and the image could end up literally anywhere.

We would appreciate your support in delivering this message to your pupils, parents and any youth groups involved with your school. If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Alan Charles in cursive script.

**Alan Charles**  
**Police & Crime Commissioner**  
**for Derbyshire**

Handwritten signature of Andrew Stokes in cursive script.

**Andrew Stokes**  
**Detective Superintendent**  
**Head of Public Protection**  
**Derbyshire Constabulary**