Case Studies (adapted from Wolak and Finkelhor)

Case Study 1

Involved a group of pupils aged between 9 and 10. One girl (aged 9 with mild learning difficulties) was speaking to a group of friends from school via MSN using her webcam. Her laptop was upstairs in her bedroom. She was getting ready for bed and was sat in a towel and "flashed" on webcam. Another pupil (girl aged 10) from the group told the class teacher what had happened the next day at school, who then reported the concern to the head teacher.

Case Study 2

A Year 6 girl (aged 11) texted a photo of herself, topless but covered, to her 12 year old boyfriend (an ex pupil). No physical sexual activity took place between them prior to this event on or offline. The image was discovered on the boy's mobile phone by his mother who deleted the image and then contacted the girl's parents. The girls' parents approached the school for advice.

Case Study 3

A girl, 13, sent a topless photo of herself to her boyfriend, who was 14. When they broke up, the boy sent the photo to numerous friends via his mobile phone and many recipients forwarded the image to others. The school found out when one recipient told a parent. By then over 200 students had received the picture.

Case Study 4

The parents of a 14-year-old girl found nude pictures of her on her computer and approached her school for advice. She admitted sending the pictures to a 37-year-old man she met online. The girl was in love with the offender, who lived in another part of the country. The victim never met him face-to-face.

Case Study 5

Two Year 9 girls (A & B) got mad at each other. They had been friends and had access to nude photos of each other. Girl A showed a nude photo of Girl B to another girl. Girl B thought the photo had been shown to many people. To get even, she sent a picture of Girl A's breasts to several boys. Several days later, both girls went to the headteacher's office, crying and upset. They felt bad about what they had done.

Case Study 6

The parents of a 16-year-old contacted the school because a boy was blackmailing their daughter. The victim said she had accidentally uploaded a nude picture of herself to a social networking site. When she realised this, she deleted the image, but a boy from another school had already downloaded it. He threatened to distribute it if she did not send him more nude pictures. When the girl refused, the boy sent the picture to about 100 people.

Case Study 7

A 16-year-old girl used the Internet to send sexually explicit photos of herself to numerous men and solicit them for sex. She was using a stolen computer because her parents had taken her computer away from her. The parents discovered the online conversations and approached her school for advice.

Case Study 8

A13-year-old girl took sexual pictures of her three younger sisters (ages 5, 6 & 8) and touched them sexually. A classmate disclosed this information to their class teacher. A child protection agency had been involved with the family for some time.

Case Study 9

At a party where there was heavy drinking, three boys in the shallow end of a pool pulled down their swim trunks and had a "swordfight". A girl, 17, filmed this and sent the video via her mobile to six other people. The three boys did not know she had taken the video or sent it. The video became a hot topic within the school and came to the attention of the teaching staff.

Case Study 10

A boy, 16, who had been bullied in school and teased about his "male anatomy" took a picture of his penis and sent it a female classmate. The classmate, in turn, but without permission, sent it to four other girls. The incident was disclosed when a teacher confiscated the boy's mobile phone and found he was using the picture as a screensaver on his phone.

Case Study 11

A 14-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl who were boyfriend/girlfriend for a couple of weeks sent sexual pictures and videos to one another, including pictures showing masturbation. The girl's mother found the pictures of the boy on her daughter's mobile phone and told their Headteacher that she wanted the boy prosecuted to the full extent of the law. When she found out that her daughter had sent images too, she wanted the girl prosecuted as well.

Case Study 12

Parents approached the school when they discovered their son, 16, had received a video of a 17-year-old boy masturbating. Their son was gay and in a relationship with the other boy. His parents were upset about his sexual orientation.

Case Study 13

A girl, 15, sent unsolicited naked pictures of herself to three different boys in her school using her mobile phone, including to one boy who was 18. Then she and a friend went to their class teacher because they were concerned the images would be sent around the school.

Case Study 14

A girl, 17, posted nude pictures of herself on a social networking site. The website identified the images as possible child pornography, removed them and reported the incident to CEOP, which forwarded the report to the local police force. The police approached the school and talked with the girl, but she was not charged.

Case Study 15

An 11-year-old girl took naked pictures of her breasts with her mobile phone. Her grandparents discovered the images, did not realise they were of the girl and brought the phone to school. The girl, when interviewed, admitted she took the pictures of herself but said she had not sent them to anyone.