

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON DIGITAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THE 112 APP

Information for parents and guardians
School year 2021-2022

To parents and guardians of children in 8th grade.

The government has assigned the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police to counteract manifestations of digital violence.

In addition to targeted training of police officers in dealing with digital crimes and increased support for victims, an education and prevention campaign among 8th grade students has been launched in collaboration with 112 Neyðarlínan (the Emergency Line).

The campaign is about digital violence and the importance of consent in digital and sexual communications. The project is carried out in cooperation with police authorities country-wide, the Icelandic Association of Local Authorities and the **steering committee** on prevention programme among children and youth against sexual and gender-based violence and harrassment.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Your child will be shown educational material at school. All schools with junior department will receive the presentation but it is also available on this **link here**. The link opens a slideshow but you will have to click on the slide to move to the next one. The video, which is the core of the education programme, is in Icelandic but also accessible with both Polish and English subtitles.

WHAT DOES THE MATERIAL COVER?

- The importance of consent in all digital communication.
- It is forbidden to create or distribute sensitive digital content without consent.
- Consent is the core element of all sexual interaction.
- We are responsible for what we do online, although the responsibility may vary depending on our age. There are different forms of liability, not only criminal.
- Report violence and digital abuse to appropriate authorities. We recommend 112: in the app, on the website or by phone.
- The importance of keeping phones, devices and software up to date to secure all digital communication.

WHY STUDENTS IN 8TH GRADE?

SAFT educates young and mid-level students about online safety and digital communication. Many schools provide **sex education** for **youth level students**. The Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis has pointed out a significant increase in boys accessing porn online in 9th grade and also increased pressure on girls to share nude content. In 8th grade, students are generally old enough to use social media (**the age limit is 13**) and probably it is also the age when teenagers in Iceland start using their phones without parental settings. This is therefore an ideal age to discuss responsibility in digital communication with the students.

THE 112 APP

Students, their relatives and school staff are urged to download the new and improved 112 app. It is available for both **Android** and **iPhone**. The app is meant to make it easy for everyone, especially young people, to report incidents to an emergency operator, who notifies child protection authorities or the police, whichever applicable.

The 112 emergency line will still be open for calls and on the [112.is website](https://www.112.is) you can report violation or ask for help regarding violence against children.

NEXT STEPS

It is important to ensure that children and young people understand the importance of consent in digital and sexual interaction. The role of parents and guardians in this context must not be underestimated either, as digital communications are here to stay in modern society.

On the 112.is website you can find useful information related to the instruction that parents can rely on. For example, you can find advice on how to **respond to violation against children**, **information for youth about violence**, information on **resources for victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse**, **children's welfare** and general **online security** tips to name a few.

In the coming months, regional online parental meetings will be held with the police to follow up on the content of the education. Further information on time and dates of these meetings will be announced cooperatively with school principals.

With the hope of secure digital communication and good cooperation.

On behalf of the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police and Neyðarlínan 112,

Dr. María Rún Bjarnadóttir

Project manager against digital violence



Government of Iceland
Ministry of Justice



Government of Iceland
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

