

INTERNET SAFETY FEBRUARY 2021

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Internet Safety:

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation; technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm.

An effective approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate the whole school or college community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any incident where appropriate. *Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2020)*

Online Safety – The 3 Main Areas of Risk:

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three main areas of risk:

1. CONTENT

Being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views.

2. CONTACT

Being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults.

3. CONDUCT

Personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

Advice from the NSPCC:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, people are relying even more on online technology. Due to lockdowns and high-level restrictions, children are spending more time at home and are unable to see friends and family in person. Many children are spending more time online and expanding the ways they use the internet - they may join online communities or start using new video-calling platforms.

Children who receive support from social services may go online to contact counsellors and others in their support network. While this can bring benefits to their wellbeing, children can be exposed to risk online, such as online abuse, cyber bullying, sexual exploitation, sexting, grooming and radicalisation. Europol has reported an increase in some countries in offenders attempting to contact young people via social media since the outbreak of the virus (Europol, 2020) We should all be aware of the increased risks associated with children being online, during this time of COVID and lockdown.

SUPPORT & RESOURCES FROM NSPCC

The NSPCC estimate that during the past nine months, the police recorded 90 cybercrimes per day against children involving child abuse images and sexual grooming offences.

Visit their website [HERE](#) to access resources and guidance on how to keep children safe online.

ADVICE RELATING TO POPULAR APPS & ONLINE GAMES

PlayStation have created the [PSN Rules \(PlayStation Network rules\)](#) for children to read, specifying what players aged 7–17 need to know before going online with PlayStation and also [guidance on how to block players](#) should they need to. A link with advice on [how to report any inappropriate content/conversations](#) is also available.

With the launch of the new Xbox Series X and Xbox Series S late last year, Xbox have a great area on their website to support families in helping children stay safe and play responsibly: Click [HERE](#)

Xbox Family Settings App - This app is available on iOS and Android phones and has been created to manage a child's activities on their Xbox One, their friend list and incoming friend requests. This app will develop with further features being planned.

Dubsmash is a 10-second video editing mobile app (similar to TikTok). A user can post their 'dubsmashes' to their profile and follow others on it. Dubsmash is available from the App Store or Google Play Store. Users should be 13+ to access Dubsmash, but those aged between 13 - 18 may only use Dubsmash under the supervision of a parent or guardian. Please make sure children know [how to block other users, report inappropriate content and disable comments](#).

LET'S TALK ABOUT INTERNET SAFETY

With children using new apps to communicate during the pandemic, it's important that we continue to have regular conversations with children about what they are doing online & what social networks, apps and games they are using. Parents and teachers should listen to any worries or anxieties children may have and let them know they can always come to them about anything.

How Might Children Feel When Talking About Online Safety?

For children, online life is real life. It can help to think about how children could feel sharing what they're doing online before you talk to them. Some emotions they could be feeling are: uncomfortable, worried, annoyed or confused.

This [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) is a partnership of three leading organisations: [Childnet International](#), [Internet Watch Foundation](#) and [SWGfL](#) (Safety & Security Online).



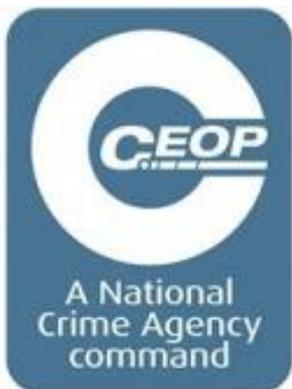
Their mission is to promote the safe and responsible use of technology for young people, through their:

Awareness Centre: this provides advice and support to children and young people, parents and carers, schools and the children's workforce. It also coordinates the Safer Internet Day across the UK.

Helpline: this provides support to professionals working with children and young people with online safety issues.

Hotline: an anonymous and safe place to report and remove child sexual abuse imagery and videos, wherever they are found in the world.

You can access their teaching resources [HERE](#) including guidance on '[How to Develop a Progressive Online Safety Curriculum In Your School.](#)'



[CEOP](#) is a law enforcement agency that works to keep children and young people safe from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Children, young people, their parents or carers and professionals can report concerns online to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors.

CEOP also offers a range of information about keeping safe from child sexual exploitation. This is separate information for different age ranges, for example 5-7, 8-10, 11-13 and 14+ year olds, with separate information for parents and carers, professionals and reporting.

[Thinkuknow](#) is an education programme from CEOP. Thinkuknow plans to release new home activity packs with simple 15-minute activities parents and carers can do with their children to support their online safety, at a time when they will be spending more time online at home. They have added information about video chat during isolation for parents and carers, and an online safety blog.

QUICK LINKS

Great Online Resources For You To Check Out:

- ❖ [The Internet Watch Foundation](#) works to minimise the availability of online sexual abuse content.
- ❖ [Childnet International](#) is a children's charity with a range of free practical resources about online safety for teachers, including for children with Special Educational Needs.
- ❖ [The Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) is a coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to stop bullying and create safer environments for children and young people. Their website contains a [Tools & Information](#) section with online bullying guidance.
- ❖ [PSHE Association](#) A charitable national association for PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education professionals. Members receive support, resources, training and guidance.
- ❖ [Parent Zone for Schools](#) has resources to support teachers in educating their pupils about staying safe online, what to do if they become uncomfortable, and how to build their digital resilience.
- ❖ [LGfL \(The London Grid for Learning\)](#) is a community of schools and local authorities committed to using technology to enhance teaching & learning. They have a number of free resources on their website, including guidance about keeping children safe while teaching remotely, and their [Twenty Safeguarding Considerations for Lesson Live Streaming](#).
- ❖ [Meet Ollee Parent Zone](#) have developed the app 'Meet Ollee' who is a virtual friend that helps your child think about how they're feeling. Meet Ollee is aimed at 8-11 year olds and their parents.
- ❖ [Harmful Content](#) is a useful site to support children with reporting harmful content they see Online. Harmful content is anything which causes a person distress or harm . This can encompass a huge amount of content and can be subjective depending on who is viewing; what may be harmful to one person might not be considered an issue by someone else.
- ❖ [CEOP – Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command](#) is an education programme that has information and resources about keeping safe from child sexual exploitation. It includes a new, [online blackmail education resource for 15-18-year olds](#).