

Online Child Safety

The internet is amazing. Children can play, learn, create and connect - opening up a whole world of exciting possibilities. However there are also risks and dangers all parents and guardians should be aware of. During their time online there's a chance that your child may come across inappropriate content, or people online who aren't who they say they are.

Dangers can include:

Online Child Sexual exploitation (CSE)

When sexual exploitation happens online, young people may be persuaded, or forced, to send sexually explicit images of themselves or take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone. Abusers may threaten to send images, video or copies of conversations to a young person's friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activity. This often follows a period of 'grooming' where the offender will have appeared friendly to gain a child's trust.



Cyber Crime

Organised criminals can target users, including children, using bogus emails, forums and Apps asking for security information and personal details with the purpose of defrauding people. As well as the risk of being victims more and more teenagers and young people are getting involved in cybercrime themselves. Many do it for fun without realising the consequences of their actions – but the penalties can be severe.

How can you make sure your child's staying safe?

To help ensure that your child's experience of the internet is as safe as possible you should:

Talk to your child

Talking openly and regularly to your child is the best way to keep them safe online. Take an interest in what



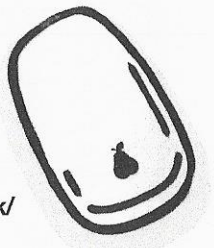
they are doing online, you might find it helpful to start with a family discussion to set boundaries and agree what's appropriate. Or you might need a more specific conversation about an app or website your child wants to use or something you're worried about.

Educate yourself

Take some time to learn about games, apps and sites popular with your children. Familiarise yourself with the age ratings which can help to indicate the level and suitability of the content. See if online reviews are available from other parents as these may be helpful.

A wealth of help, advice and guidance is available online, some of it aimed specifically at parents or guardians.

- 📱 www.getsafeonline.org
- 📱 www.internetmatters.org
- 📱 www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- 📱 www.saferinternet.org.uk
- 📱 www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/crime-threats/cyber-crime



Parental controls

Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases or manage how long your child spends online. The good news is parental controls are really easy to set up.

Also ensure that you have full access to any device used by your child.

What to do if you have concerns

Contact the police if you think your child has been a victim of a crime. Ring ☎ 101 or ☎ 999 in an emergency. Contact the Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (CEOP) if you are concerned that an adult is behaving inappropriately towards a child on the internet: 📱 www.ceop.police.uk