

Keeping children safe online

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What we will be looking at

- Children's online lives
- Online exploitation
- How offenders operate
- Bullying online
- Critical thinking skills and resilience
- How parents and carers can help their children (and themselves)
- Support and advice services

Children's online lives



28% have their own mobile phone

93% use video streaming platforms (YouTube, Tik Tok)

59% use messaging sites

74% watch TV on a device rather than a TV set

More children watch streaming video than watch live TV

Children's online lives

8-11



60% have their own mobile phone

To go online: 71% use a mobile phone, 79% use a tablet and 55% use a laptop

95% use video sharing platforms

54% use live streaming apps/sites

84% use messaging sites/apps

64% use social media and 60% have their own social media profile

69% play games online

79% watch TV or films on any type of device other than a TV set (90% on a TV set)

51% watch live TV vs 76% who watch SVoD¹

32% have seen something worrying or nasty online 📶

32% were able to correctly identify sponsored search results 🔍

60% have their own mobile phone

95% use video sharing platforms

84% use messaging sites

32% have seen something worrying or nasty

32% could identify sponsored search results

Why do we need to understand more?

- It's not enough to just tell children what to do (in any situation!)
- They need to understand the potential dangers in order to be able to protect themselves
- Threats change, so children need to be able to recognise unsafe situations of all kinds
- Filters and settings don't solve everything and are not fool-proof

The major threats children face online

- The sending/receiving of indecent images
- Exploitation (sexual and criminal)
- Bullying and abuse (again, can involve images)
- Criminal activity (children may not recognise it as such)

Indecent images of children

Online sexual exploitation of children

- Online abuse frequently involves children being tricked or blackmailed into sending images or films of themselves
- Images and films can be shared between offenders
- They can also be put onto adult websites without the child's knowledge
- It can also lead to contact abuse in the real world

The legal position

Taking, sharing or possessing an indecent image of a child under 18 is illegal...

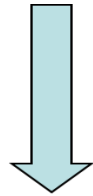
...even if it's your own body you are photographing

Children often don't think there is anything wrong with taking images

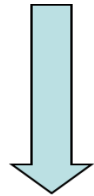


Image risks

An image is sent to one person



Most images go no further, but...

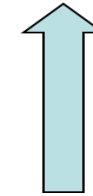


- Friends fall out...
- Friends lose their phones...
- Friends have poor security on shared devices ...



Images can be copied, harvested, shared or manipulated without the subject's knowledge

The image stays public for ever



Images can be used by bullies

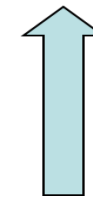


Image risks – how scattergun offenders operate

Catfish or bait videos – using images (maybe stolen) that a child will find attractive



Offender

Using a false identity

Using their own profile

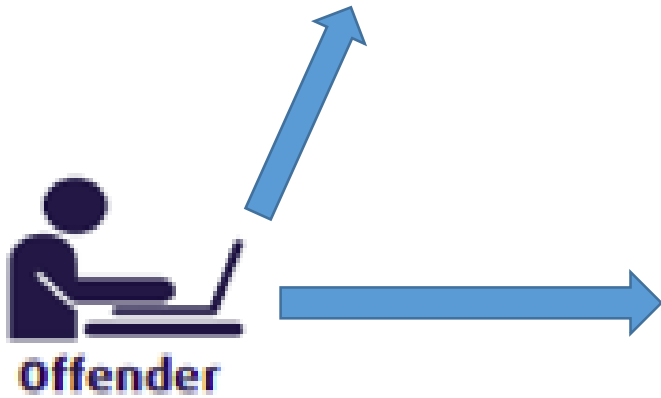
Pushing the child to move onto a private platform

Using gifts to bribe or entice the child

Remaining anonymous

Image risks – targeted offending

Capping – secretly capturing self generated images, often with victims being told what to do



Blackmail – using images to force the child to carry out more acts or send more images

Coercing or persuading the child to meet for contact abuse

Do you get dressed
in the garden every
morning?

What about PE? Do
you get ready in the
road?

Why / why not?

Is it different online
or on devices?

I never get undressed
or change my clothes
when I'm on camera



LGfL

DigiSafe

Watch the video, learn the song and then use the message to inspire best at school and at home.
Download this poster from children.lgf.gov.uk or see more materials at children.lgf.gov.uk

Roblox: 'I thought he was playing an innocent game'

By Rachel Stonehouse
Victoria Derbyshire programme

Is your child suddenly secretive?

Are they sad or quiet but won't say what is worrying them?

Are they preoccupied?

Do they have mood swings?

Are they either suddenly more attached to their social media or are they unexpectedly avoiding it?



Call the NSPCC helpline or
report to CEOP

What can parents and carers do?

- Make sure your child knows they can always talk to you
- Remember that not all children are sharing images
- Try to keep calm – however hard this might feel!
- Be aware of what you share (about yourself and your child)
- Use the sources of advice and help at the end of this presentation

Cyberbullying

Forms of cyberbullying

- Creating fake online profiles in the victim's name
- Posting unkind/racist/homophobic comments
- Editing or sharing photographs/films without consent
- Spreading rumours
- Exclusion from groups

I sent a picture to my boyfriend of myself naked. I didn't want to even send it but he threatened me if I didn't. Now he has sent it to his friends and everyone at school has seen it. I feel so ashamed. He is asking me for more picture and I don't know what to do as he is very forceful. I don't really like having sex with him but when I say no he just carries on.

Girl, 13

If your child is a bully...

- Explain why bullying is wrong
- Teach your child how it can affect victims
- Help your child understand that their actions are not okay
- Help them think about how they have affected the other person – sometimes children think that online comments are not as bad as something said face to face

- Explain what sanctions you are going to put in place at home
- Tell your child that you are going to support action by the school
- Try to stay calm and to have a constructive conversation – shouting puts up barriers



If your child is a victim

- Reassure them that they have not done anything wrong
- Involve them in what you decide to do
- If they don't want to talk to you, tell them about ChildLine or the NSPCC
- Help them report bullying to sites or apps
- Don't take their phone away - this would feel like a punishment

Child Criminal Exploitation

- Like all exploitation, involves an abuse of power
- Children can be groomed or blackmailed into criminal activity
- Many are recruited through social media – gangs monitor content
- Risks include county lines (drug running) or membership of gangs
- They can be victims of violence, encouraged to use drugs, or can end up owing large sums of money to the criminals
- Children can also be recruited into money laundering or stealing bank details

Deets and Squares

- The child is encouraged to let criminals deposit funds into his or her account
- They will be given a small amount of money in payment
- They are accessories to a crime for allowing this to happen
- The criminals may blackmail the child into carrying out more or worse acts
- The child can end up with a criminal record and a badly damaged credit history

Signs to look out for

- Changes in behaviour
- Going missing from school or home
- Suddenly having lots of money or new things like clothes or jewellery
- Unexplained injuries
- Carrying weapons
- Sudden interest in music or videos that feature gangs or violence

Help your child

- Check their bank account regularly and ask about any unexpected payments
- Make sure they understand why they should never share their PIN or account details
- If they suddenly have new things, ask where they got the money
- Ensure they understand the long-term consequences
- If it looks too good to be true, it probably is!



How to support your child

How to support your child online

- Build your child's confidence
- Help them to understand the importance of consent – their own and other people's
- Help them to understand peer pressure, and how to challenge it
- Be interested in things your child does online
- Explain your decisions and set clear boundaries
- Be a positive role model in your own online life

More ideas for supporting your child

- Be honest about the positives as well as the negatives of social media

- Encourage them to have offline hobbies



- Be ready for the impact of secondary school, the increased peer pressure, and how this will affect their use of social media

Help your child to think critically

- What could happen if a stranger saw this?
- What's making me want to send this?
- Why is this person talking to me?
- How do I feel about this post being out there for ever?

Help your child to think critically

- How could this make another person feel?
- Is someone making me do or say this, even if I don't want to?
- What could the consequences be if I send this?
- Where can I get help with this?

If things go wrong

Use this button (at [thinkuknow.co.uk](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)) to report abuse or exploitation



A child protection adviser from CEOP will contact you

The police may get involved, but not always

It's never too late to report

ChildLine offers advice and help about online bullying



Sources of help and advice

O₂ 😊 NSPCC Net Aware)))

 **parentzone**
The experts in digital family life


5-7?



8-10?



11-13?



14+?



Protecting your children from abuse online

I need to report an incident

I'm concerned about my child

I'd like to understand more about keeping my child safe



 **ask about games**
Approved by The VSC Rating Board

Sources of help and advice continued...

- www.nspcc.org.uk
- www.parentinfo.org
- www.saferinternet.org.uk
- www.childline.org.uk
- www.pegi.info
- <http://www.askaboutgames.com/>
- www.net-aware.org.uk
- www.getsafeonline.org
- www.mencap.org.uk/about-us/our-projects/safesurfing
- www.actionfraud.police.uk/scam-emails
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/home>

Thank you

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