ONLINE SAFETY NEWS

Autumn 2022

Talking to your child about online sexual harassment, Children's Commissioner Guide:
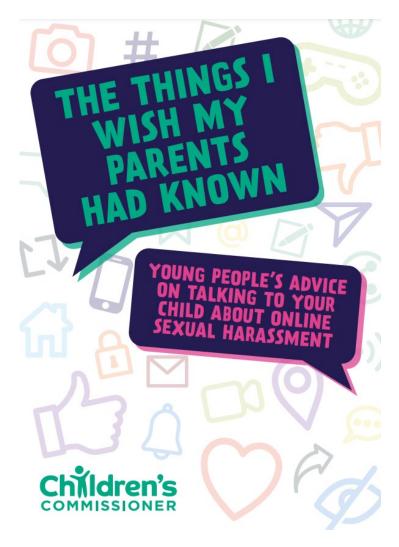
A guide for parents on how to talk to children about online sexual harassment has been published on behalf of the Children's Commissioner. The guide includes tips from young people about how parents can open up earlier conversations about sexual harassment, nudes, sexualised bullying, photo editing, body image and peer pressure. Click here to download.

'This guide serves as a starter kit – an entry point for parents and carers who want to talk to their children but need a bit of support to understand the issues and to start a conversation.'

Summary of top tips include:

- Start speaking to your children about these issues before you first give them a phone or set up a social media account. This might feel very early, but you can do it in an age appropriate way. It is better to be proactive than reactive. Don't wait for the crisis.

- Keep the conversation going. Adapt to your child so you can support them. Don't mention it once and think that's enough.

- Keep it casual, find everyday opportunities to speak about these issues with your child – like when you're walking or driving somewhere. Don't scare them with 'the big talk'.

WHAT TO DO IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

If you are worried that your child has had an upsetting experience online, for example if a nude image has been shared without their consent, it is important that you know where to go for immediate support.

- Contact Childline/IWF Report Remove if an image/video of an under-18 has been shared without their consent. **Visit Childline site for more info**.

- Make a report to National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (NCA CEOP) if you think the image/video has been shared with an adult. **Make a report here**.

- Visit the **NSPCC dedicated helplines website here** or call 0808 800 5000 or email **help@nspcc.org.uk**.

- Your child can also call (free) or email Childline themselves. **More info here**.

- Speak to us at school

NSPCC ONLINE SAFETY HUB

The NSPCC safety hub is organised by topic and holds lots of information and advice for parents and carers. Click below to view the relevant information:

- **Social Media**
- **Online Gaming**
- **Parental Controls**
- **Sharing Nudes**
- **Inappropriate Content**
- **Online Reporting**

HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH MEDIA COVERAGE OF TRAUMATIC EVENTS

Seeing coverage of upsetting local and world events in the news, online or on social media can be distressing for children, especially given today's 24-hour news availability. There are things parents can do to help children make sense of them.

ParentZone suggests five steps to help children cope with distressing events and suggests further support resources.

1. Give them space to talk

2. Create a sense of calm

3. Reassure them

4. Keep things simple

5. Listen to their views

Read more here.

WHAT IS 'GENSHIN IMPACT'?

'Genshin Impact' is an action adventure game that was released in 2020 and it has become highly popular. Parentzone have put together a useful guide that explores the game's features, gameplay and potential risks, for parents to use in conversations with children.

Find out more here.

SEARCH ENGINES AND WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SAFER SEARCHING

Parentzone offers a detailed parent guide to understanding search engines and how to help your child search more safely and positively. Remember, no filer is 100% effective!

Find out more here.

WHAT IS YUBO?

Yubo is a chat and live streaming app, extremely popular among young people. It was launched originally under the name Yellow, and was nicknamed "Tinder for teens" due to its swipe-to-match functionality which mimics the adult dating app. **Find out what parents need to know about Yubo in this Parent Zone article.**

SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

The online world gives everyone access to a huge amount of information, images and services, and this inevitably includes content that is inappropriate for children. Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content.

Setting up parental controls and individual safety settings on your child's favourite app or game, can help stop unwanted contact from people they don't know.

NSPCC has produced a guide to the different ways that you can set up parental controls to help keep your child safe online.

NSPCC

This newsletter has been produced based on information provided through Parent Zone and NSPCC therefore is as reliable as I can provide as of the date of the publication of this newsletter: September 2022.

If we can support you, your family or children with any issues relating to points raised in this newsletter or for any other concerns please do contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads

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