

# ONLINE SAFETY NEWS

September 2023



Ofcom's 2022 research into technology use across the UK has shown that nearly all 13-15 year olds (98%) have their own phone. For most of these young people, they were given their phones around the start of secondary school, between the ages of 9 and 11 (91%).

If you are considering getting your child their first phone, there are lots of factors to consider. Childnet's [First Phone Checklist](#) is a great, easy to understand resource that takes you through the process of choosing the right time, setting it up and supporting your child.

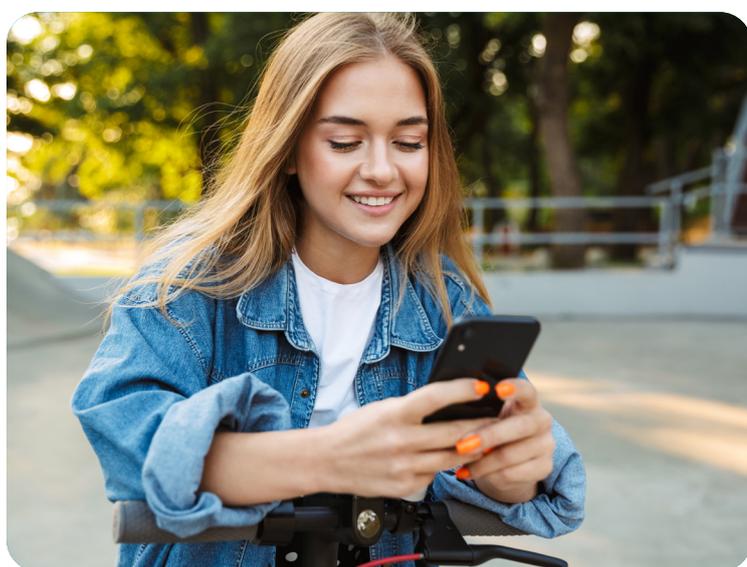
Childnet's [Moving On Up](#) videos are a great place to start conversations around new devices, digital wellbeing and online bullying.

## The Mix

The Mix is a leading support service in the UK for young people and offers free and practical advice on wide ranging issues. The article on ['How to avoid online scams'](#) helps young people understand what to watch out for and actions to take to hopefully avoid being scammed online.

## TikTok

Check out [Parent Zone's guide on TikTok](#) which includes functionality, reporting, blocking and privacy settings.



 Childnet

THE MIX

 parentzone

NSPCC

## WhatsApp and BeReal

The NSPCC has published advice on two very popular apps with children - WhatsApp and BeReal

WhatsApp is rated 16+. The app allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls. You can connect with people individually or join group chats where lots of people can contribute. The NSPCC advice will help you get to grips with the safety tools available including setting privacy and location settings.

The risks of WhatsApp including unwanted contact, pressure to respond, location sharing, inappropriate content, cyberbullying and oversharing are explored within the advice.

BeReal app is rated 12+. This is a popular image-sharing app where you can post your own pictures as well as view other people's. Users can only post once a day and are only able to see their friends' images if they have shared their own.

At a different time every day, users receive an alert telling them it's 'Time to BeReal'. This gives them two minutes to take a picture, and post it on the app. The NSPCC advice page looks at potential risks including the pressure to share, location sharing, inappropriate content, oversharing and unwanted contact. The advice page also offers top tips for staying safe.



[NSPCC WhatsApp Advice](#)

## What is YouTube Go Live Together?

YouTube have begun rolling out a new live streaming feature called 'Go Live Together'. A helpful guide from [INEOE](#) outlines what the feature is, what the risks are, and some top tips to help the children and young people in your care stay safer if they choose to livestream on YouTube.

## DEALING WITH SAFETY CONCERNS

### Inappropriate contact from an adult

The [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command \(CEOP\)](#) helps keep children safe from online grooming. CEOP is part of the police service and sits within the National Crime Agency. If you suspect an adult is communicating with a child inappropriately, or a child is being sexually abused online, you should report this to CEOP.



## Online hate content

Online content which incites hatred should be reported to [True Vision](#) which covers the grounds of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender. This content should also be reported directly to the platform on which it appears.

## Nude images of children online

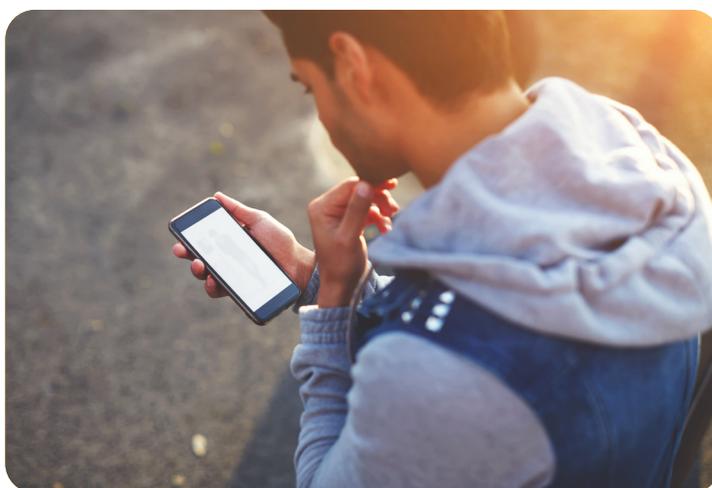
The report remove tool on the ChildLine website is for young people to get help in removing a nude image or video of them that has been shared on the internet. There is a helpful video that explains how report remove can help.

## Online abuse and harmful content

For forms of online abuse and harmful content, such as bullying, threats, or self-harm and suicide content, you can report this directly to the platform where the abuse took place.

This also includes content designed to impersonate someone else (e.g. creating a fake account pretending to be someone else). Report Harmful Content can walk you through the reporting process for many popular sites.

If the content has remained online or the platform has not taken appropriate action, you can report this to [Report Harmful Content](#). They will look into the issue and ensure the correct processes have been followed and advise you on what steps you can take next.



**This newsletter has been produced based on information provided through NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> and CEOP - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/> therefore is as reliable as we can provide as of the date of the publication of this newsletter: September 2023.**

**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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