

# ONLINE SAFETY NEWS

September 2025



With constant access to social media and messaging apps, teens often use slang, acronyms, and emojis to communicate in ways that aren't always clear to adults.

These meanings can change quickly—and vary by school or location—making it hard to keep up. [Smartsocial](#) offers an updated guide to help parents and educators stay informed about trending terms, hidden emoji meanings, and risky

hashtags, supporting safer, more open conversations with young people.

[430+ Teen Slang, Emojis, & Hashtags Parents Need to Know](#)

## TEEN, SOCIAL MEDIA & YOU

“Teens, social media & you” is a guide from media smart and tiktok, designed for parents and carers of teens aged 13+.

It helps adults understand the online world their young person is navigating, offering tips to support safe, balanced use of social media through open conversation and active involvement.

[Media Smart - TikTok Teens, Social Media and You](#)



## WHAT TECH-FACILITATED ABUSE LOOKS LIKE IN TEENAGE RELATIONSHIPS

Teenagers' online and offline lives are closely connected, including their relationships.

Technology can enhance communication but also enable control and abuse. Learn how to support your teen in recognizing and responding to tech-facilitated abuse. For more insights, read the [Internet Matters blog](#) on this issue. TIPS:

- Help your teen secure their devices and accounts
- Check for tracking devices and spyware
- Document digital abuse and keep evidence
- Report and seek support

## CHILDLINE - BEHIND THE SCREEN

Sexual extortion (blackmail) is a growing concern. [Behind the Screen](#) is a free campaign and information pack from Childline, offering guidance for staff, parents, and young people on its impact, language, and support strategies. Some important areas covered in the guide include:

- How to Spot the Signs
- Common Language & Tactics
- Impact on Young People
- How to Support Young People
- Where to Get Help



## HELP LGBTQ+ CHILDREN BROWSE SAFELY ONLINE

This [guide](#) provides advice on how to support LGBTQ+ children in navigating the online world safely. It covers key topics such as:

- Privacy settings
- Safe browsing
- Dealing with online hate
- Accessing supportive communities



The guide aims to help parents and carers create a safe and inclusive digital environment where LGBTQ+ children can explore their identities while staying protected from online risks.

## WHAT IS KICK STREAMING? WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Many parents and carers are familiar with Twitch, a popular live-streaming platform for gamers.

Due to controversies over its restrictions, alternatives like Kick have gained popularity. Launched in 2022, Kick follows a similar model where users (13+) can stream and earn money. However, much of its content is adult in nature, making it important for parents to be aware of the platform and its potential risks for younger users.

[What is Kick streaming?](#)

## GAME SAFE GUIDE - HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE GAME SAFELY ONLINE

The [“Game Safe” guide](#) from Internet Matters helps parents support safe, balanced online gaming for young people.

It covers age-appropriate content, managing screen time, setting parental controls, and staying alert to online risks like in-game chats and spending. It also encourages open conversations to promote safe and positive gaming experiences.



## USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Within Polaris, experts are cross checking the use of AI before school adults training is initiated and subsequently training for children. Currently our school adults and children should not be using AI in school unless part of the Computer Science curriculum.

Online Safety, Term 1, will cover the use of AI for and with our children, we recognise this is part and parcel of the modern world.

We recognise that it is likely that children and families may already be using AI at home therefore please read up on some useful advice and guidance: [Using Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)

This newsletter has been produced based on information provided through CEOP and other websites, therefore is as reliable as we can provide as of the date of the publication of this newsletter: September 2025.

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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