

# Online Safety: Staff Briefing

Spring 2026

This is a termly staff briefing produced by Knowsley CLCS, it is designed to update school practitioners with some of the latest research and resources to support the delivery of online safety in schools.

## **DfE Guidance: Mobile phones**

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated its guidance on the use of mobile phones in schools in England. The DfE have replaced the 'Mobile phones in schools: toolkit for schools' with 'Communicating your policy for prohibiting the use of mobile phones in schools to parents'. This document provides information to help you communicate with parents and pupils about your school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones. The DfE have also added additional case studies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mobile-phones-in-schools>

## **Secondary school resources from Internet Matters**

Internet Matters have a variety of secondary school resources to help teach teens about safe online use, from managing their screen time to navigating cyberbullying or inappropriate content. It also lists common online safety issues that children aged 11-16 may experience. You can also download a planner to save you time on planning lessons. You can find out more here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/secondary/>

## **The Childnet Film Competition 2026**

The theme for this year's competition is: Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI. The films should be up to 2 minutes in length, and focus on the safe and responsible use of AI. The competition is open to any young person aged 7-18. The deadline is Friday 22nd May at 5pm.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.childnet.com/what-we-do/our-projects/childnet-film-competition-2026/>

## AI misuse and nudification

Childnet have launched a brand new resource focussing on generative AI and how it can be misused, with a specific focus on using generative AI to edit a photo of somebody to make them appear nude or naked. This resource is for use with learners aged 13-17, but may be suitable for use with 11 and 12 year olds with adaptation. It covers:

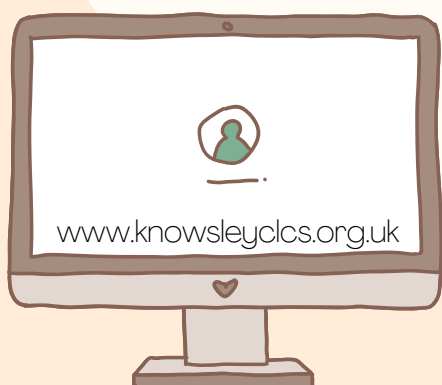
- What is generative AI and what can it be used for?
- Misuse of generative AI and the possible impacts
- Reporting nude images made using generative AI

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/ai-misuse-and-nudification/>

## AI literacy activity ideas for educators

Parent Zone have published an article on how AI literacy can be covered across the curriculum in computing, PSHE, English, maths, science and the humanities. Read the article here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/ai-literacy-activity-ideas-educators>



## Online financial harms

The PSHE Association have created an Online Financial Harms Lesson Pack to help protect pupils from a range of online financial harms that pose safeguarding as well as financial risks. The lesson plans start at key stage 2 then build in complexity as students progress to secondary school and post-16/key stage 5.

<https://pshe-association.org.uk/online-financial-harms>

## Misogyny

NSPCC Learning has launched a new online masterclass in understanding, identifying and tackling misogyny wherever children may encounter it – online, in the community, at school or at home. There is a £20 charge to access. The masterclass has been designed for professionals working or volunteering with children and young people.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training/tackling-misogyny-masterclass>

## Solve the Story

The BBC have released a brand new six-part series from the Other Side of the Story, designed to be used in the classroom to help young people strengthen their media literacy skills. It is an interactive series, which includes weekly episodes, "How to" guides, classroom films and downloadable teacher notes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/groups/c4gqzw1kxn6t>

*Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.03.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.*