



"My parents won't let me walk to school by myself bc they think it is too dangerous, but they have given me a phone with a million more daily risks than I face irl."

Year 7, October 2023

(irl = In Real Life)





Most of us are vulnerable online, but particularly children

Young people are at risk of the following areas whilst online:

Understanding the Risks

- Emotional Harm
- Financial Harm
- Physical Harm

Online Bullying (Cyberbullying)

1 in 8 young people have been bullied on social media

- Direct via the use of verbal attacks
- Indirect via exclusion and by spreading rumours
- Through social networking sites, gaming sites, chat rooms, email or phone messages
- Can occur alongside physical bullying



Normalising Extreme Views

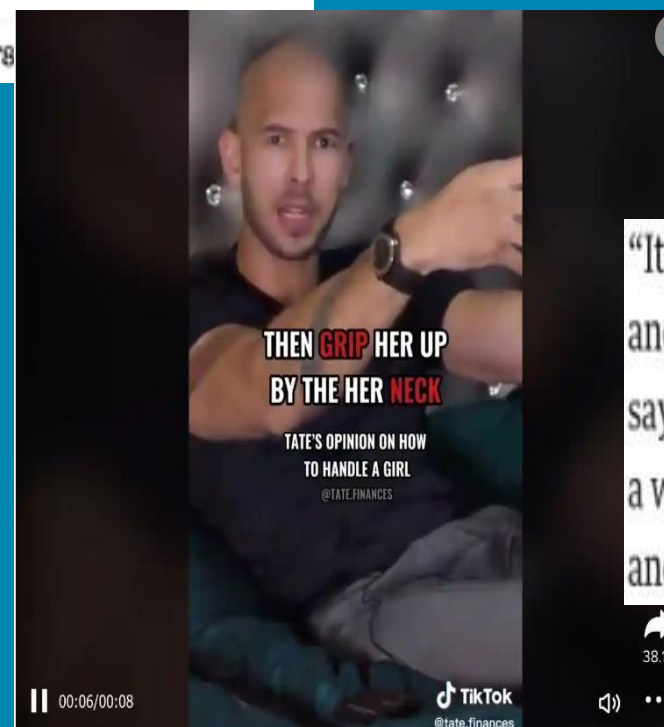


Alan Freestone
@AlanFreestone

I hope the women of Plymouth collectively take some responsibility for this. Misandry & the anti-man rhetoric from teachers causes incel. Young men without hope, without a path, without anything meaningful to strive for become dangerous to the societies around them.

17:51 · 13/08/2021 · Twitter for Android

33 Retweets 2,078



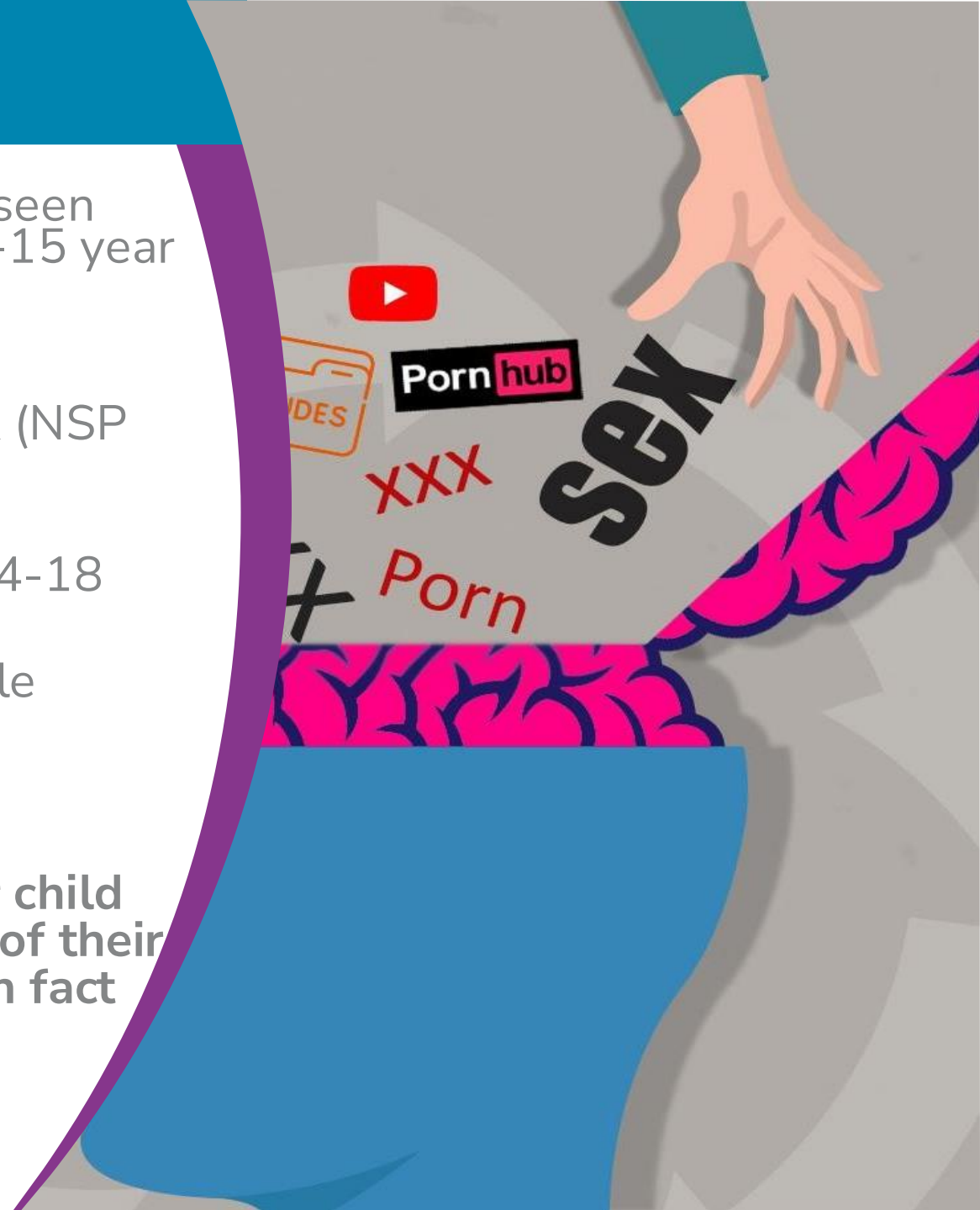
"It's bang out the machete, boom in her face and grip her by the neck. Shut up bitch," he says in one video, acting out how he'd attack a woman if she accused him of cheating. In another, he describes throwing a woman's



Pornography

- 51% of 11-13 year olds reported that they had seen pornography at some point, rising to 66% of 14-15 year olds. (Revealing Reality, 2022)
- The average age of viewing porn is 12 in the UK (NSPCC, 2023)
- An NSPCC study in 2023 found that between 14-18 year olds:
 - 22% of students had viewed porn on multiple occasions.
 - **One in five** said they had a porn habit
 - **One in 10** said they felt addicted
- Three quarters (75%) of parents felt that their child would not have seen pornography online. But of their children, more than half (53%) said they had in fact seen it. (BBFC 2020)

9/29/2025



Pornography



- “If you put a phone in a child’s hand, you are putting porn in a child’s hand ... don’t do it unless you are ready to speak to them about pornography.”

Boy (15)

Barnado's Research 2022

- Pro-Ana and Pro-Mia sites
- #selfharm and #suicide: "83% of social media users surveyed were recommended self-harm content on their personalised feeds" (Swansea University, 2023)

Harmful Content

- Private accounts
- Body image and extreme diets
- Tiktok challenges

Social media firms 'monetising misery', says Molly Russell's father after inquest

Coroner finds harmful online content likely to have contributed to Molly's death 'in a more than minimal way'



■◀ 'I hope the world will be safer', says Molly Russell's father after inquest - video



Generative AI

- Cyberbullying and sexual harassment
- Generative child sexual abuse material (CSAM)
- Disinformation and fraud
- Impacts on education
- Privacy concerns
- Bias or discrimination

Spain sentences 15 schoolchildren over AI-generated naked images

Teenagers each given a year's probation after creating and spreading faked images of female classmates in south-west Spain



The pictures had been circulating on WhatsApp. Photograph: Jaque Silva/SOPA Images/REX/Shutterstock

July 2024



Contact

‘Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes’ (KCSIE 2021).



Child Sexual Exploitation or Grooming

Online grooming is the technology-facilitated process of befriending a young and vulnerable person by an adult perpetrator for the express purpose of sexual abuse and exploitation (NSPCC)



ed by an internet predator who lured him to a location and slit his throat in 2014 REX FE



Chat apps and Social Media

- Location
- Oversharing
- Contact with people they do not know



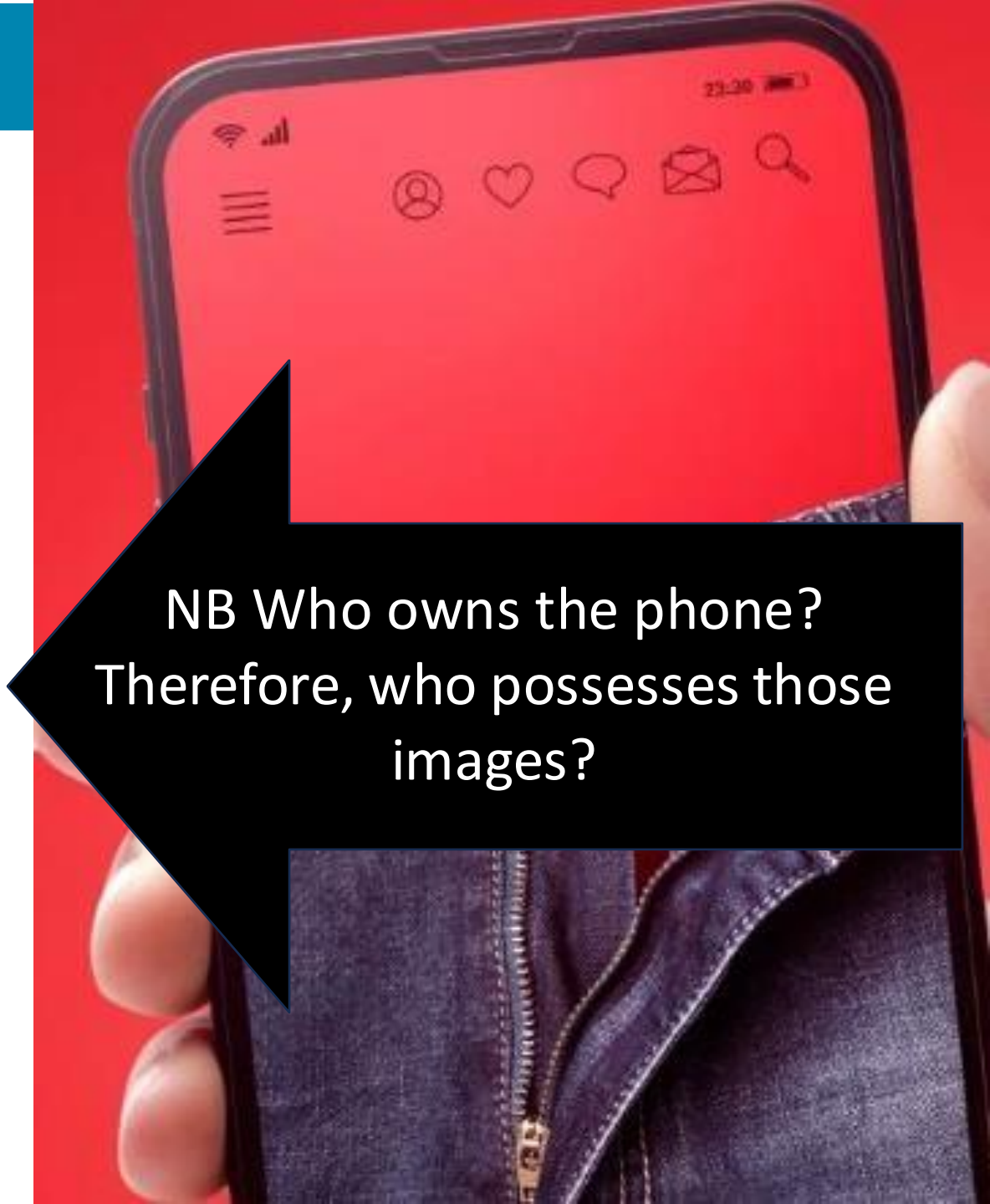
Conduct

- Girls as young as six were sending sexually explicit texts during the pandemic
- Girls sent the majority of concerning messages
- Eleven-year-old girls and 13-year-old boys attempted to send the highest proportion of sexts (SafeToNet, 2020)
- 39% of 12-17 year olds said they had received a sexual photo or video. The mean average age at which respondents received their first sexual image from someone was 14. (ESET, 2024)



Conduct

- In England and Wales, the [Protection of Children Act 1978](#) makes it an offence to take, make, show, distribute, possess (with a view to distribute) or publish an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 (England and Wales) defines a child, for the purposes of indecent images, as anyone under the age of 18

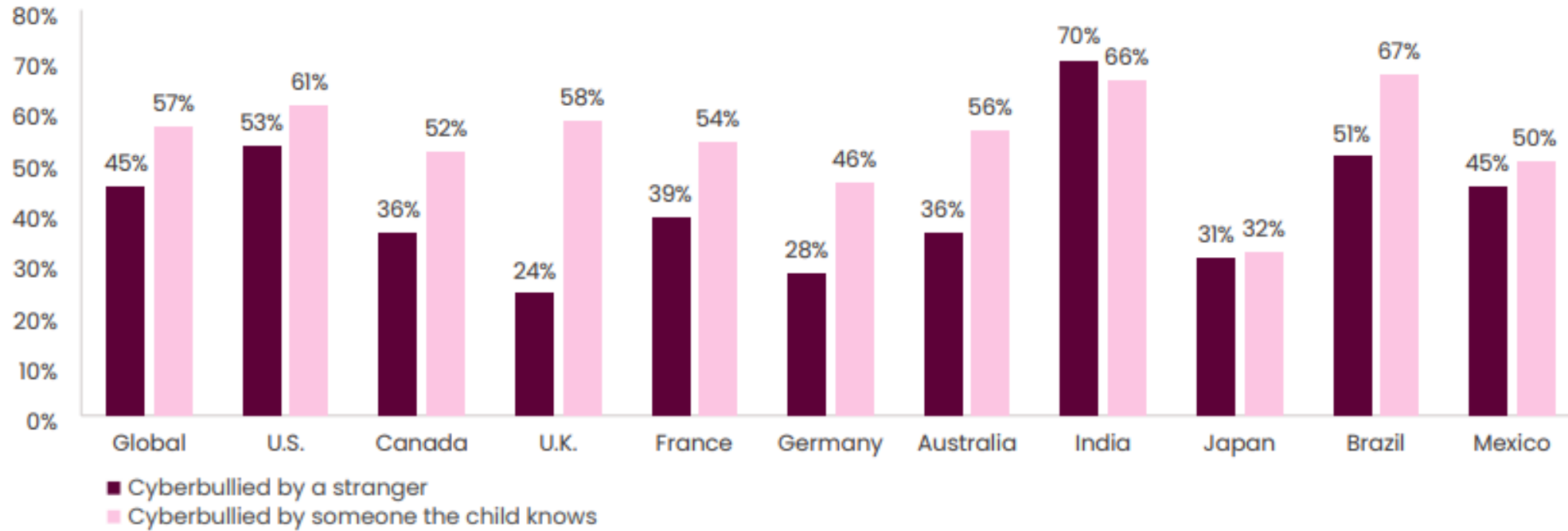


NB Who owns the phone?
Therefore, who possesses those
images?



Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying by strangers and by people the victim knows

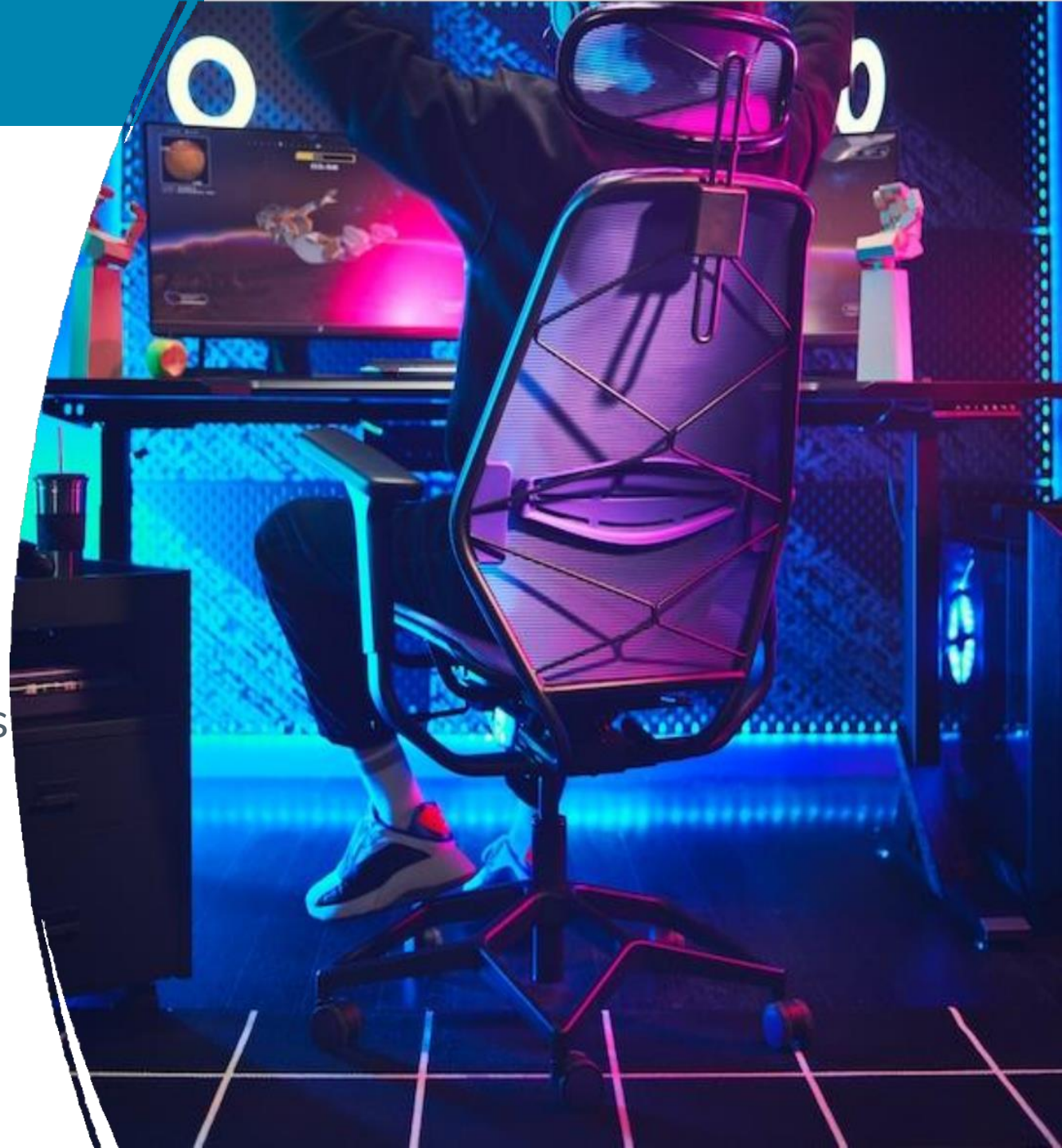


- Group Chats e.g. Class chats, "1st to 500"
- Livestreaming
- Gaming online
- Social Media/Apps including streaks



Gaming

- 12% of adolescents are at risk of problematic gaming, with boys more likely than girls to show signs of problematic gaming (16% vs 7%).
- The majority of addicted gamers are adolescents and young adults within the age bracket of 18 to 34 years old.
- The average age of a gaming addict is 24 years of age.
- Around 8.5% of children and teenagers under 18 around the world may be addicted to gaming. (WHO, 2024)



Commerce

‘Commerce – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams’
(KCSIE 2021)



Commerce

Children as young as young as 11 have problems with gambling, while almost half a million children have admitted to betting regularly say the Gambling Commission.

Jack Ritchie death: gambling addiction began as teenager, inquest hears

English teacher who took his own life in 2017 began using fixed-odds betting terminals while in the sixth form



📷 Jack Ritchie with his parents, Charles and Liz, who have campaigned for reform of gambling legislation after their son took his own life. Photograph: Gambling With Lives/PA



Buying vapes
online:

Do you know where your
child's money goes?

Vaping danger lessons in Plymouth after vapes spiked with Spice

It comes after a Plymouth dad claimed that Spice had been put into his son's vape and had turned him into a "monster"

NEWS

By [Carl Eve](#) Crime Reporter & [Alison Stephenson](#) Local Democracy Reporter

06:30, 26 AUG 2024

Bookmark 



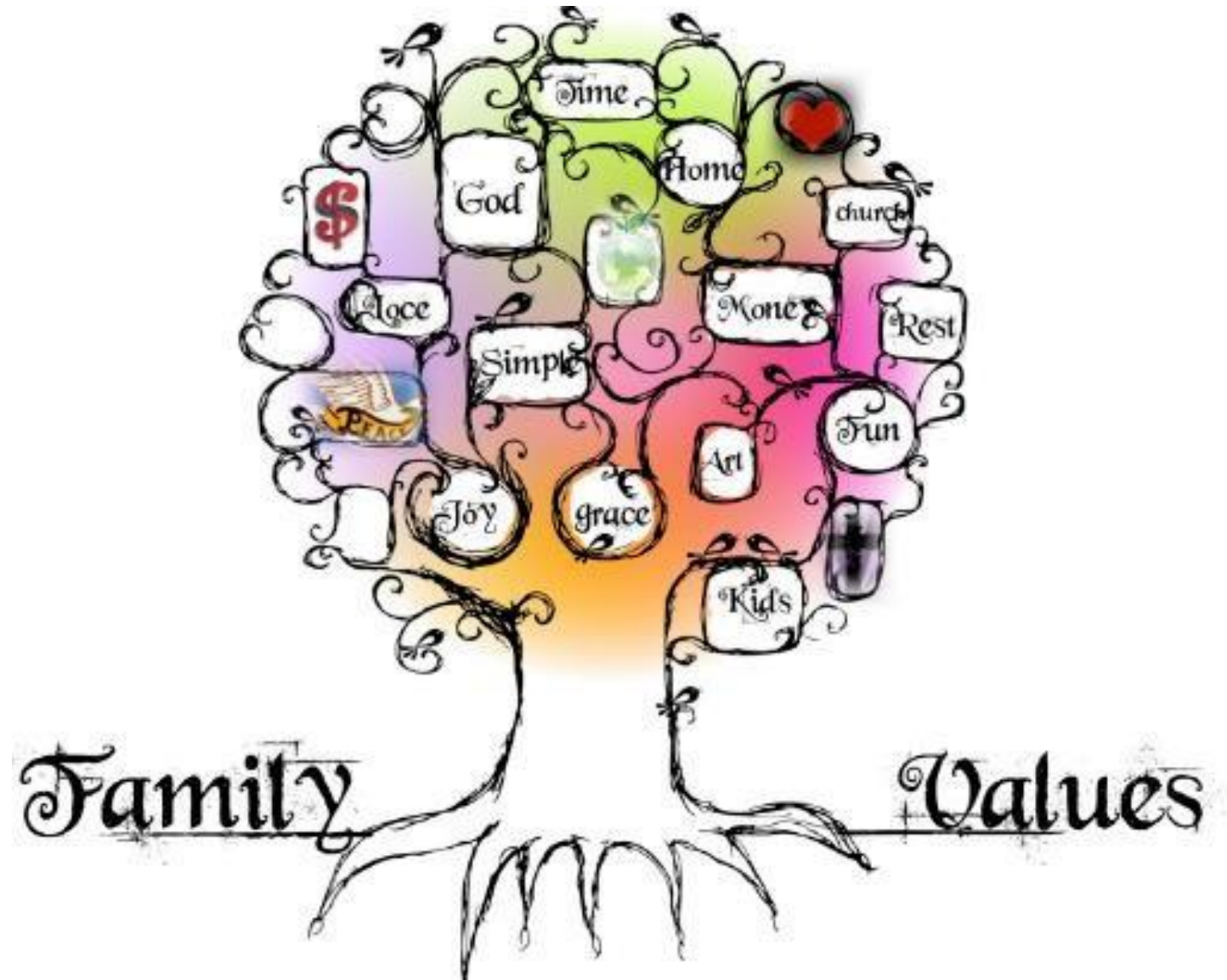
How can we support?



Values

What are your values as a family?

How does this relate to online?





Childnet Family Agreement

Our agreement:	Who is responsible for this?

What happens if someone doesn't follow the agreement?



UK Safer
Internet
Centre

 Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility

 NOMINET

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Level Three (cellphone, approved friends, pictures, and no internet)

Parent-Child Phone Agreement

Purpose:

This agreement is designed to help Cecilia develop emotional regulation, self-care habits, responsible school work, and good communication skills. In exchange for following these guidelines, Cecilia will have access to their phone. This is a shared commitment to build trust, responsibility, and support healthy habits.

Part 1: Emotional Regulation

- Commitment: I, Cecilia, agree to practice emotional regulation by acknowledging my feelings and finding healthy ways to express them.

- Examples:

- Taking deep breaths or a short break when I feel overwhelmed.
- Talking to a trusted adult (parent, teacher, counselor) when I need help processing my emotions.
- Refraining from using my phone when I'm angry or upset as a way to avoid acting out or sending harmful messages.

- Parent Support: My parent agrees to listen to me when I need to talk about my feelings, offer support, and help me find healthy solutions without judgment.

Part 2: Self-Care

- Commitment: I agree to prioritize my well-being by practicing good self-care routines.

- Examples:

- Getting at least 8 hours of sleep each night.
- Limiting screen time, especially before bed, to make sure I have enough rest and downtime.
- Taking breaks from my phone to focus on hobbies, relaxation, and physical activity.

Part 2: Self-Care

Commitment: I agree to prioritize my well-being by practicing good self-care routines.

Examples:

- Getting at least 8 hours of sleep each night.
- Showering/bathing almost every day.
- Reading chapter books and practicing math comes before screentime and games.
- Limiting screen time, especially before bed, to make sure I have enough rest and downtime.
- Taking breaks from my phone to focus on hobbies, relaxation, and physical activity.

Parent Support: My parent agrees to help me maintain healthy habits by encouraging breaks from the phone and participating in activities together that promote self-care, such as outdoor walks or creative time.

Part 3: School Work

Commitment: I agree to complete my school assignments on time and put effort into doing my best work.

Examples:

- Completing homework before using my phone for social media, games, or other entertainment.
- Asking for help when I don't understand my assignments or when I need more time to complete them.
- Checking in regularly with teachers and parents to make sure my assignments are complete and/or to ask for any additional support or assistance.

Parent Support: My parent agrees to help me create a good homework schedule and will offer help or guidance if I am struggling with my work.

Part 4: Communication

Part 4: Communication

Commitment: I agree to communicate openly, respectfully, and responsibly with my family, friends, and anyone else.

Examples:

- Responding to family messages in a timely manner, especially when I am out.
- Avoiding hurtful language or gossip.
- Letting my parent know if I come across something harmful, inappropriate, or uncomfortable.

Parent Support: My parent agrees to communicate respectfully with me, answer my questions, and trust me while being available for guidance when needed.

Consequences for Not Meeting Expectations

If I do not follow this agreement, I understand that:

- My phone access may be limited or suspended.
- We will have a conversation about what went wrong and how I can improve before I can regain access.

Reviewing the Agreement

This agreement will be reviewed on a regular basis to see how we are doing and if any changes need to be made.

Signed:

Cecilia

Date: _____

Aaron

Date: _____

Building Trust

If kids can trust
you with the
little stuff, they
will come to you
with the big stuff.

Dr. Laura Markham



Become a part of their reality

- Online life is real life and it is their life
- Young people's happiness is often linked to their connectedness
- Be positive!



Role Modelling

Role modeling is the most basic responsibility of parents. Parents are handing life's scripts to their children, scripts that in all likelihood will be acted out for the rest of the children's lives.

— *Stephen Covey* —



Detox

Research shows that young people want to reduce their use!



Healthy Relationships

Are your young people absolutely clear on what makes up a healthy relationship?

Do they know what red flags to look out for offline and online in relationships?



Learning

“My parents don't know what I do online. They don't understand tech so I just do what I want”

Year 7, 2024



When Things Go Wrong

What would you do if
your young person
told they were
addicted to porn?

When Things Go Wrong

A woman with long dark hair is shown from the side, sitting and covering her face with her hands. She appears to be in a state of distress or shame. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

What would you do if your child came to tell you they had sent an unsolicited nude of themselves and it had gone round the school?



When Things Go Wrong

What would you do if your child came to tell you that they were being bullied online?



Online Bullying, Managing the Risks



- Work with children to **block the bullies**
- Tell children you are pleased that they told you about the problems, **reassure them** it's not their fault and that you are going to help
- If the child knows the bully through school or another organisation, **contact relevant member of staff**
- If necessary, help children to **change contact details**
- As a last resort, call the police. It is not against the law, however the '**Protection from Harrassment Act**' can be applied
- Parents need to keep in mind that it is possible for their child to be the bully, as well as the victim
- Children cannot be expected to be resilient to bullying and need to be able to feel supported



1. Do a little homework
2. Pick your moments
3. Avoid the “big talk” –little and often

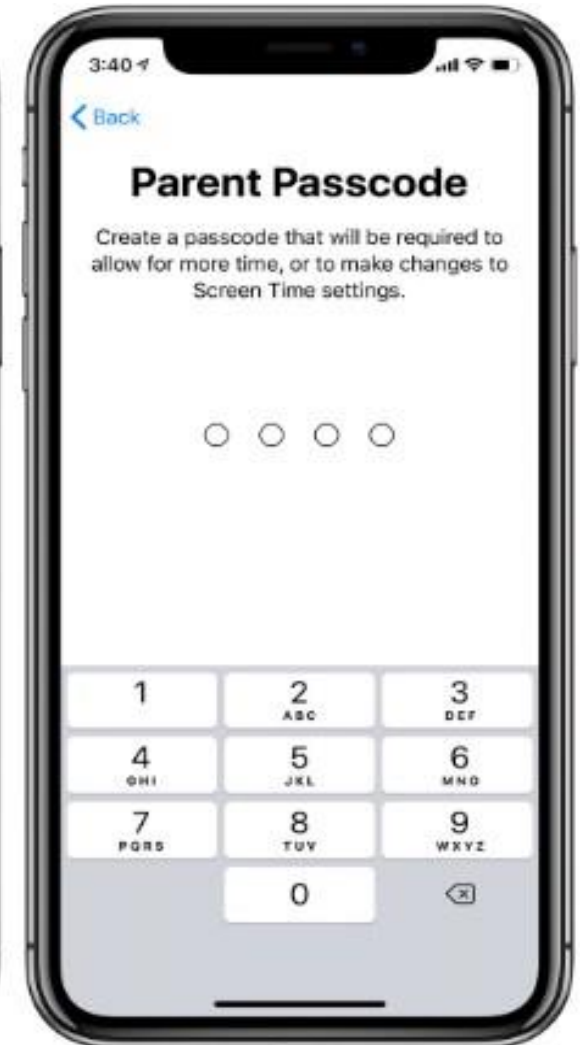
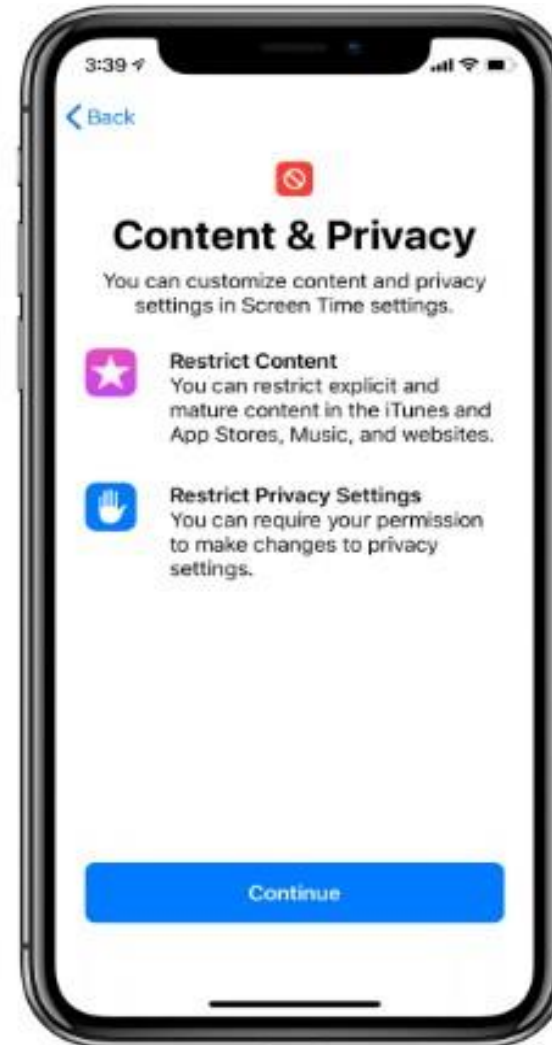
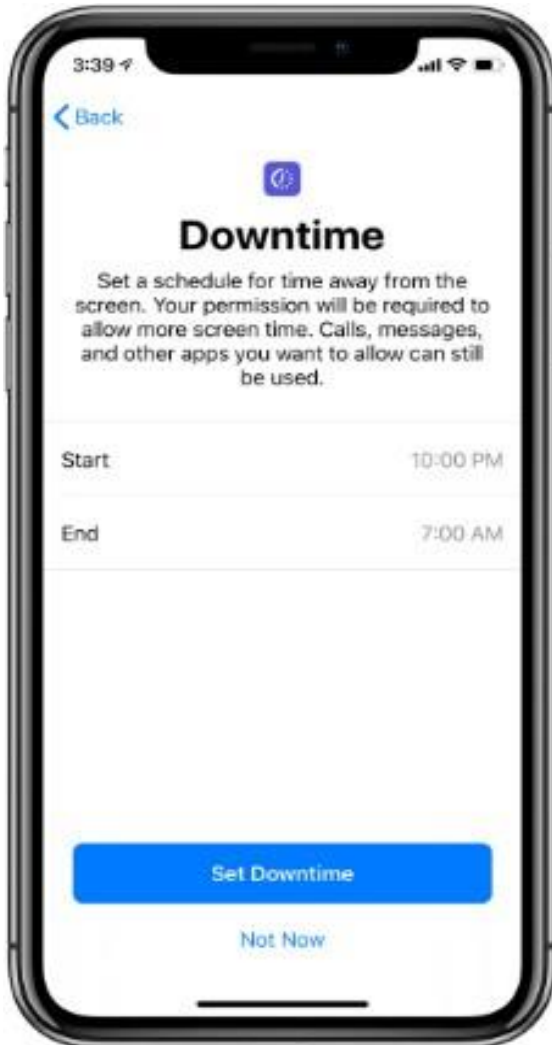
The Conversation

4. Keep conversations positive
5. Make positive choices
6. Connection rather than investigation



Practical Ways To Support





Limit Screen Time – Downtime and Apps



Where are ALL phones/ devices at night?



Monitoring

1. Aura
2. Qustodio
3. Microsoft Family Safety
4. Norton Family
5. Google Family Link
6. FamiSafe

Safetydetectives.com

Summary

Today

7 days

14 days

30 days



Screen Time

1h 20m

Limit: 4h

Add extra time +

Screen Time by hour



App activity

- Minecraft
- Disney Plus
- Tik Tok
- Clash of ck
- Whatsapp

Screen Time by hour



Web Activity

- youtube.com
- discord.com
- gerted.com
- example.com
- twitter.com

See more

All

Web

Apps

Searches





Practical Ways to Support - Gaming

Games Consoles:

- Check the content of the game and any chat function
- Consider who your child could have contact with whilst using the game
- Check the in-app purchasing
- Does the game affect your child's behaviour?

Practical Ways to Support – Social Media

Things to check:

- ☐ Oversharing
- ☐ Location sharing
- ☐ Talking to people they do not know
- ☐ Inappropriate conduct
- ☐ Unrealistic sense of reality
- ☐ Obsessive focus on likes and comments



News > UK

More than 1.6 million social media accounts are owned by underage children

Children are signing up to social media at an increasingly young age, the study by the Advertising Standards Authority found.

Josie Clarke • Tuesday 29 November 2022 00:01



France approves law requiring parental consent for minors on social media

France approved a new law Thursday requiring social media platforms like TikTok to verify users' ages and obtain parental consent for those under 15 years in an effort to protect children online.

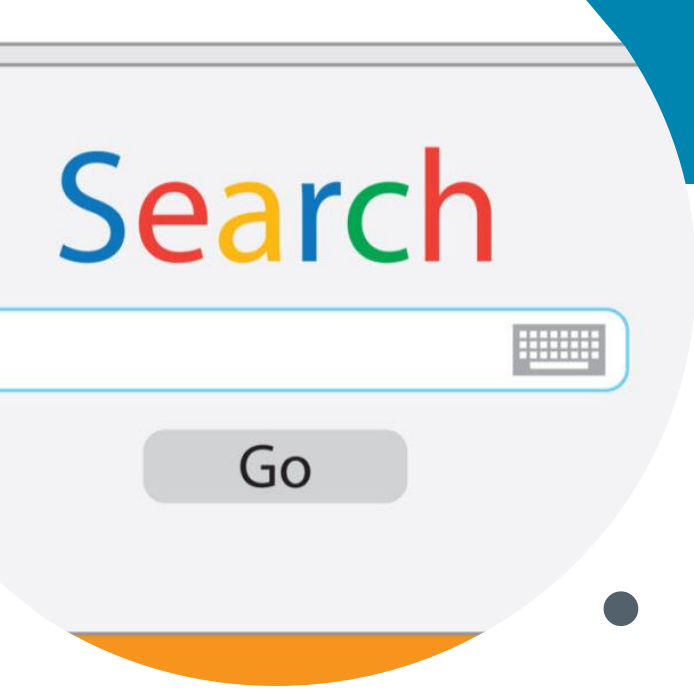
Issued on: 29/06/2023 - 14:33 ⌚ 2 min

Age Restrictions

Snapchat, TikTok,
Instagram, Facetime (Apple
ID), YouTube (with parental
consent), Spotify,
WhatsApp etc etc
13 years old



Search Engines



- Sometimes, innocent searches can lead to not so innocent results
- If you're worried do ensure SafeSearch is on (or equivalent)





Reporting

- The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) helps keep children safe from online grooming.
- If you come across an indecent image of a child online, it is important to report this to the [Internet Watch Foundation](#) (IWF) so that they can review this content.
- If you know a young person who has had a sexual image or video of themselves shared online, and they're under 18, talk to them about Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation's [Report Remove](#) tool.



Reporting

- Online content which incites hatred should be reported to [True Vision at report-it.org.uk](https://report-it.org.uk) which covers the grounds of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender.
- If you're worried that a child is being abused, or at risk of being abused, you should contact the NSPCC helpline

Resources



- Childhood 2.0 (YouTube/Prime)
- The Social Dilemma (Netflix)
- Raised on Porn (YouTube)
- Protect Your Eyes (Instagram)
- Parenting in a Tech World (Facebook)
- Limited Screen Time (Facebook)
- That parent group (with Cath Hakanson) (Facebook)
- Ask Lisa – Dr Lisa Damour (Podcast)
- 1000 Hours Outside – The Undeclared War On Childhood (Podcast)
- Anxious Generation – Jonathan Haidt (Podcast)



Resources



[Online safety resources and guides | NSPCC Learning](#)

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Parents & carers | Childnet](#)

[Parents' Ultimate Guides | Common Sense Media](#)

[Advice For Young People | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)



Thank you for listening

"Communication is THE key to
keeping our young people
safe"

NSPCC