

E-safety Newsletter

Summer 2026

Edition 9

Do you know the latest statistics for children being exploited online?

What are the latest online developments to be aware of?

Do your children speak to you if they are worried about something online?



How to Support Your Children

The Children's Commissioner has put together some practical guidance for how to support your child to stay safe online. It has taken views from children of all ages when putting it together, which is shown by the title: "What I Wish my Parents or Carers Knew." You can access this via the link below and use it to create a partnership with your child to help them to navigate the online world safely and healthily.

['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers](#)

Children and Mobile Phones

It is becoming more and more common for children to be of primary school age when they get their own mobile phone for the first time. For many parents, this is a tough decision as to whether it is appropriate, safe and sensible for their child. As children will see many of their friends with phones at a certain age, the pressure becomes greater for parents to buy a phone for their child when they are not sure if it is the right decision for them. The NSPCC have put together a practical and easy-to-read guide for parents with guidance on when might be the best time for children to get their first phone and how to manage the risks associated with this. They also have links to wider e-safety topics and guidance as well, so it is well worth taking a look via this link: [Children, phones and online safety | NSPCC](#)

Government Screen Time Guidance for under 5s and beyond

You may already be aware that the government published screen time guidance for parents back in March, suggesting from evidence gathered how long it is appropriate for children under five to be spending on screens. If you have not seen it, you can access it here: [New screen time guidance for parents of under-5s - GOV.UK](#)

The government are currently undergoing a consultation with experts in the field, parents and children to expand this guidance to cover 5-16 year olds as well. It will also highlight how to use screen time healthily as well as setting guidelines to amounts of time that children of different ages are recommended to spend on screens. This guidance is due to be published in September this year, so be on the look-out. In the meantime, you can read more about this through the following link: [New guidance on screen use for children aged 5-16 - GOV.UK](#)

Pinterest

Did you know that Pinterest has a chat function? I'm sure that most people see Pinterest as a place to find pictures, ideas and links to useful websites, but it now has a messaging function. If your child is using Pinterest, then it is important to be aware that they can be messaged or send messages to others on this platform. This has particularly been highlighted recently as there has been a case of children engaging in private messaging on Pinterest, which led to nude pictures being shared. This shift to private messaging functions has also occurred on similar platforms such as Tumblr, Lemon8 and Amino, meaning that the importance of being aware of the apps your children are using as how these can be used is as crucial as ever.

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