



# Online Safeguarding Newsletter

**February 2025**



## Safer Internet Day 2025

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme **‘Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online ‘**

The Safer Internet Day 2025 range of information and resources available online, helping children and young people to embrace to opportunities available online whilst enabling them to protect themselves from harm and seek support.

This years campaign focuses on identifying scams and avoiding them in situations where children and young people are likely to be exposed to scams. Exploring the persuasive and manipulative material that can be used to influence opinions, decision making and sharing of information, picture or videos.

The campaign also considers the emotional impact navigating a misleading online world can have on young people and why it is important to create a supportive, critical, and questioning culture online that encourages debate and discussion.

For more information please visit: [Safer Internet Day 2025 - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

## Online Blackmail Resource for 15-18 Year Olds

The CEOP Online Blackmail Resource is designed to help young people recognise the signs of online blackmail, understand its impact, and know how to seek help. Online blackmail involves threats to share personal information or images unless demands are met. Young people can be particularly vulnerable to these threats. This resource has been awarded the PSHE Association Quality Mark for its effectiveness in teaching. The one-hour session can be delivered in various educational settings.

For more information please visit the [Online blackmail education resource for 15-18 year olds](#)

## Sextortion

Sextortion, a form of blackmail, involves offenders threatening to share nude or semi-nude images of individuals unless they pay money or provide further intimate content. This crime, often perpetrated by organized groups outside the UK, can target anyone, regardless of age or gender.

## **How Does Sextortion Happen?**

Perpetrators often:

- Target young people on social media.
- Move conversations to encrypted platforms.
- Initiate sexual conversations or share nude images.
- Pressure victims for more images or videos.
- Blackmail victims with threats of sharing images.
- Claim to have hacked accounts and accessed personal information.
- Immediate Danger: Call the police on 999 if a child is in immediate danger.

For more information and advice visit [Sextortion - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

## Online Grooming

Online grooming occurs when someone befriends a child online with the intention of exploiting and harming them, often through sexual abuse, radicalisation, or financial scams. Groomers are adept at gaining trust, using fake profiles or posing as influential figures like mentors or celebrities. They use the same platforms as children to build relationships, then manipulate and control them, sometimes isolating them from their support networks. Any child can be targeted, but those with additional vulnerabilities may find it harder to seek help.

To protect children, it's important to discuss the difference between online and offline friends, emphasising that online friends are still strangers. Teach children to recognise red flags, such as requests for personal information or secretive behaviour, and familiarise them with reporting and blocking tools on social media and apps. Ensure your child knows they can come to you for help, no matter what. For more support, visit [Online grooming | Childnet](#).

## New Offences introduced to the Online Safety Act 2023

In January 2024 six new offences were created by the Online Safety Act 2023:

- encouraging or assisting serious self-harm
- cyberflashing
- sending false information intended to cause non-trivial harm
- threatening communications
- intimate image abuse
- epilepsy trolling

These offences apply to the individual sending them.

For more information on the Online Safety Act 2023 visit [Online Safety Act: explainer - GOV.UK](#)

## Cyber Bullying

Cyberbullying is a significant issue in the UK, affecting nearly one in five teenagers. This form of harassment can occur through various online platforms, including social media, messaging apps, and gaming sites. The impact of cyberbullying can be severe, leading to emotional distress, mental health issues, and even physical harm. With the rise in online activity, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the prevalence of cyberbullying has increased. Resources for parents, carers and professionals are available here [Free resources to help tackle cyberbullying | Childnet](#).

## Useful Links and Resources

### NSPCC

The NSPCC have some excellent information and advice for parents and professionals working with children. [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

### Childline

Provides advice for young people on a wide variety of issues, including online safety and cyber-bullying. [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### UK Safer Internet Centre

Collaborative organisation providing advice and guidance on online safety. They also provide free professional helpline to support and advice on managing your professional reputation online. [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

### Internet Matters

Non-profit organisation working with online safety experts to provide advice and information for parents for keeping with children safe online.

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

### Get Safe Online

Covers practical, technical information on protecting against fraud, viruses etc.

[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

### Childnet

Provides information and resources for professionals, parents and carers and young people. [Childnet — Online safety for young people](#)