

Online Safety News



Summer 2022 | PARENT | CARER

Talking to your child about online sexual harassment, Children's Commissioner Guide

A guide for parents on how to talk to children about online sexual harassment has been published on behalf of the Children's Commissioner. The **guide** includes tips from young people about how parents can open up earlier conversations about sexual harassment, nudes, sexualised bullying, photo editing, body image and peer pressure.

'This guide serves as a starter kit – an entry point for parents and carers who want to talk to their children but need a bit of support to understand the issues and to start a conversation.'

Summary of top tips include:

- Start speaking to your children about these issues before you first give them a phone or set up a social media account. This might feel very early, but you can do it in an age appropriate way. It is better to be proactive than reactive. Don't wait for the crisis.
- Keep the conversation going. Adapt to your child so you can support them. Don't mention it once and think that's enough.
- Keep it casual, find everyday opportunities to speak about these issues with your child – like when you're walking or driving somewhere. Don't scare them with 'the big talk'.

The full guide can be downloaded from: [Children's Commissioner Gov. UK | Talking to your child about sexual harassment](#)



What to do if something goes wrong

Where to get help

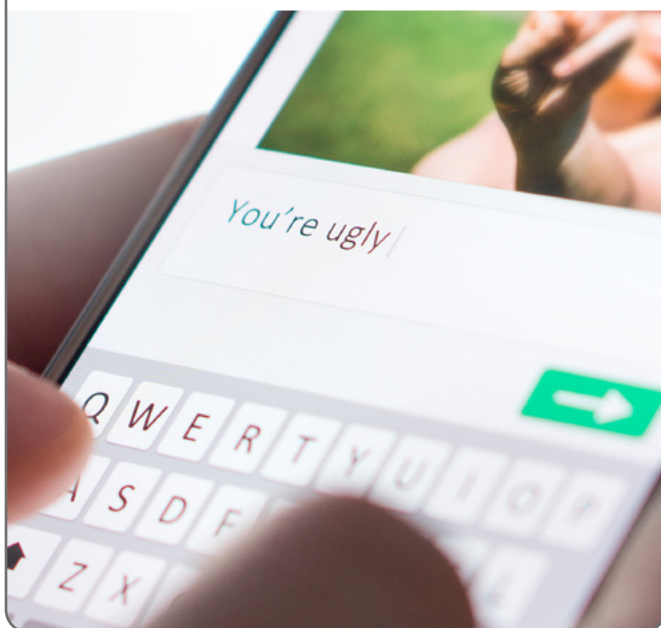
If you are worried that your child has had an upsetting experience online, for example if a nude image has been shared without their consent, it is important that you know where to go for immediate support.

- Contact **Childline/IWF Report Remove** if an image/video of an under-18 has been shared without their consent. [Childline | Remove a nude image shared online](#)
- Make a report to **National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (NCA CEOP)** if you think the image/video has been shared with an adult. ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting
- Visit the **NSPCC dedicated helplines website page** or call 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk.
- Your child can also call (free) or email **Childline** themselves: childline.org.uk/get-support
- Speak to your child's **school**

NSPCC online safety hub

The NSPCC safety hub is organised by topic and holds lots of information and advice for parents and carers including **social media**, **online gaming** and **parental controls**.

The safety hub can also help with more difficult conversations around **sharing nudes**, **inappropriate content** and **online reporting**.



parentzone

Helping children cope with media coverage of traumatic events

Seeing coverage of upsetting local and world events in the news, online or on social media can be distressing for children, especially given today's 24-hour news availability. There are things parents can do to help children make sense of them.

Parentzone suggests five steps to help children cope with distressing events and suggests further support resources.

1. Give them space to talk
2. Create a sense of calm
3. Reassure them
4. Keep things simple
5. Listen to their views

Read the full article at:

[Parentzone | Helping your child cope with media coverage of traumatic events](#)



What is 'Genshin Impact'?

'Genshin Impact' is an action adventure game that was released in 2020 and it has become highly popular. Parentzone have put together a useful guide that explores the game's features, gameplay and potential risks, for parents to use in conversations with children.

[Parent Zone | What is Genshin Impact](#)

What is Yubo?

Yubo is a chat and live streaming app, extremely popular among young people. It was launched originally under the name Yellow, and was nicknamed "Tinder for teens" due to its swipe-to-match functionality which mimics the adult dating app.

Find out what parents need to know about Yubo in this Parent Zone article:

[Parent Zone | What is Yubo](#)

Search engines and what you need to know about safer searching

Parentzone offers a detailed parent guide to understanding search engines and how to help your child search more safely and positively.

[Parent Zone | Search Engines | What you need to know](#)

Remember - no filter is 100% effective!



Setting up parental controls

The online world gives everyone access to a huge amount of information, images and services, and this inevitably includes content that is inappropriate for children. Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content.

Setting up parental controls and individual safety settings on your child's favourite app or game, can help stop unwanted contact from people they don't know.

NSPCC has produced a guide to the different ways that you can set up parental controls to help keep your child safe online.

[NSPCC | Parent Controls](#)

The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Herts for Learning Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. Contact the team at wellbeing@hertsforlearning.co.uk or call **01438 544464**.

Herts for Learning (HfL) is a provider of products and services to schools and educational settings. We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live or their circumstances.