

Online Safety Newsletter – November 2024

Please take the time to update yourself on the most recent developments regarding online safety.



Snapchat in the news.

According to NSPCC data, Snapchat is the most frequently used platform for online grooming in the UK, with police recording over 1,824 offences of Sexual Communication with a Child in the year up to March 2024 on this platform alone.

While Snapchat claims to enforce strict policies against child exploitation, NSPCC and law enforcement leaders criticize tech companies for not doing enough to protect children.

In one case, a mother discovered her eight-year-old daughter was targeted by a groomer on a gaming app, then lured to Snapchat. In an interview with the BBC, she said:

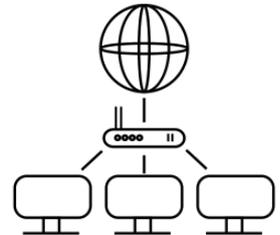
"It's my responsibility as mum to ensure she is safe,"

She said parents "cannot rely" on apps and games to do that job for them.

We urge all of our parents and carers to consider the suitability of snapchat, and similar apps that place children at risk and to carefully monitor your child's online activity.

Social media algorithms

In addition to the more obvious threat of grooming on social media, there are many hidden dangers that can be overlooked but, over time, impact a child's well-being.



Algorithms on social media shape the content we see by analysing factors like who we follow, our searches, and what we interact with, which encourages us to stay online longer. While this can be beneficial by showing us relevant content, it has downsides.

Algorithms can increase screen time and may expose users to inappropriate content, potentially harming body image or increasing exposure to harmful view and hate. Additionally, they can create "echo chambers," where users see only content that aligns with their views, limiting exposure to diverse perspectives.

If your child uses social media, check if they are in their own "echo chamber". Don't like what you see? It might be time to stop!