

Online Safety

The main types of risk to young people online are:

1. Content
2. Contact
3. Conduct
4. Exploitation
5. Extremism

1. Content: child is exposed to/receives age-inappropriate or unreliable content or fake news

While browsing online (e.g. through YouTube, online games, Instagram, Facebook, Tiktok etc.) young people are likely to come across content that is, exploitative, inappropriate, hurtful or harmful.

Content may be:

Aggressive	Sexual	Values
Violent/hateful content e.g through gaming sites	Pornography Images of substance abuse	Biased Racist Misleading information or advice e.g. suicide/self- harm/ pro-anorexia

Many stories are being shown across social network about COVOID 19.

Talk to your child about the difference between fake news and reliable sources of information.

2. Contact: child participates in contact with strangers, bullies, groomers or radicalisers

Children may make new friends online during this period of time – online friends may not be who they say they are.

Contact may be:

Aggressive	Sexual	Values
Bullying, stalking, harassing Identity theft e.g “frape” (hacking Facebook Profile)	Grooming Requests to meeting strangers	Encouraging self-harm unwelcome persuasions - grooming for purposes of violence/terrorism

Once that person has access to your child’s online account, they may be able to gain access to personal information such as address or name of school.

Talk to your child regularly about who is in their friends list online. Encourage your child to remove any unknown contact.

Ask them how they can tell the difference between a trusted contact and a stranger online.

Ask your child which privacy settings they have on their apps. It is essential to add privacy settings to apps to keep your child safe from groomers, bullies and radicalisers who seek to harm and exploit young people.

If you are worried that your child may have had inappropriate contact or has been approached by a stranger online, report it to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre or the police.

You can also contact school emergencies@uffculme.bham.sch.uk for support and advice.

In the case of bullying online or offline, does your child feel confident to report this to a trusted adult in the household? You could talk through different scenarios with them to check they know what to do.

3. Conduct (behaviour) – sharing too much information

Young people need to understand that everything they do online NEVER disappears. We call this their digital footprint.

Conduct may be:

Aggressive	Sexual	Values
Bullying/harassing another	Sexting Grooming Creating/uploading inappropriate images and material	Providing misleading information and advice

Young people may feel anonymous online – they may not understand how important it is to keep personal information safe and not share it with strangers.

Talk to them regularly and make sure they feel confident enough to tell you about inappropriate conversations, messages or behaviours they encounter.

4. Commercialism and financial exploitation

Young people can be at risk of commercial exploitation online. This can include apps, advertising or marketing schemes that can make young people spend money online.

This may be in the form of:

Content	Contact	Conduct
Adverts Spam Sponsorship Requesting Personal Information	Tracking/ Harvesting Personal Information	Illegal downloading of films and music. Copyright breaches Hacking, gambling Financial Scams – disclosing personal information Terrorism

Make sure your child knows how to keep their personal information safe and block popups and spam emails on devices.

You could setup a family email for registering online forms which you can then manage as an adult.

5. Extremism and radicalisation

When a young person is vulnerable, radicalisers from extremist groups could target them in different ways. This might be face to face but young people can also be radicalised online.

Both the Far Right and Islamist inspired groups use a variety of methods to exploit the growth of global technology.

They will use societal or political grievances to pull young people into a world of extremism and violent ideologies by influencing, grooming and ultimately radicalising them to carry out violent acts of extremism.

This may be in the form of:

Content	Contact	Conduct
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Videos/Images/Memes which are: Biased to extreme ideology Racist Hateful Misogynistic Homophobic	Grooming Persuasive arguments towards extreme ideas/politics/actions	Bullying Harrassing Threatening Blackmailing Promoting a “them vs us” mentality
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Popular platforms include WhatsApp, Discord, Rocket Chat, Viber and Telegram.

Conversations promoting racist, misogynist and homophobic ideas are known as “dark social” platforms.

There are many more platforms that extremists use, so be aware of what platforms your child is using during this time to communicate, or what may seem like a regular chat for gamers.

Report online material promoting terrorism or extremism

You can report online material promoting terrorism or extremism via the Online Tool: <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism> . The online tool is for reporting illegal or harmful information, pictures or videos found on the internet.